FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PLO POLITICAL ADVISER DISCUSSES PNC SESSION

JN241128 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0855 GMT 24 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Damascus, 24 January--Hani al-Hasan, political adviser of the PLO Executive Committee chairman, has described the meetings of the Palestine National Council [PNC] as important. He said: We reached agreement on several significant political issues.

In statements to today's Damascus ATH-THAWRAH, Al-Hasan said the current PNC session was unprecedented because the political resolutions were unanimously approved. He added: "We also approved the political and organizational program. We discussed the Palestinian-Jordanian dialog, approved the principle of the dialog, and agreed to proceed with it. We have our own points to which we will adhere during our future dialogs. We also agreed on the financial issue, which is a very important subject."

Al-Hasan said: We discussed the PLO Executive Committee issue, which is a basic and significant one. It was decided at the end of the debates to maintain the committee as it is, keeping the same members and maintaining its leading role in the Palestinian arena.

Al-Hasan described the 14th PNC session as one of steadfastness against U.S.-Israeli capitulationist designs. He said that need for continuous confrontation was expressed at the session because should U.S.-Israeli settlement plans succeed, it would mean failure and the end of the PLO and its policy of confrontation. He added: It is therefore incumbent upon us to thwart and liquidate the settlement designs.

Referring to the assassination of struggler Abu Hasan Salamah, Al-Hasan said the Israelis have been unable to face us inside the occupied territories and are now resorting to dirty terrorism outside the occupied land.

Al-Hasan said: There is a new U.S.-Israeli plan to wipe out the PLO leaders. He referred to Brzezinski's statement: "Goodby to the PLO," and to Saunders' statement: "Should the resistance leaders remain alive, they would be symbols to the Palestinian people."

Al-Hasan asserted that the U.S.-Israeli axis is now moving on two poles--in southern Lebanon and the assassination of leaders.

Concluding, Al-Hasan said: The Israelis and the U.S. Administration should realize that the Palestinian people's struggle does not belong to leaders--it belongs to the people. The future will reveal that we are prepared to confront the U.S.-Israeli schemes.

PNC ISSUES POLITICAL STATEMENT ON DAMASCUS MEETING

JN241344 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1323 GMT 24 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Damascus, 24 January--The Palestine National Council [PNC] has declared that the Joint National Action Charter between Iraq and Syria is a major pillar in the confrontation of the Camp David plot and the restoration of the strategic balance with the Zionist enemy.

This came in a political statement issued here today on the work of the 14th session of the PNC, the session of martyr Houari Boumediene, held in Damascus from 15 to 22 January, 1979.

The PNC called for the support of this charter so that it can achieve its goals as quickly as possible.

Following is the text of the statement:

The 14th session of the PNC was held from 15 to 22 January, 1979, corresponding to 16 to 23 Safar 1399 Hegira, in Damascus, the capital of the Syrian Arab Republic, because it was difficult to convene the session at the Arab League premises in Cairo in view of Egypt's conclusion of the Camp David agreement. The session was named after the late martyr Houari Boumediene, president of the Algerian Republic, as an expression of the Palestinian people's appreciation of the late leader and for his loyalty to the Palestine issue and the issues of the Arab nation as well as the great role he played in liberating Algeria, in its progress, and in supporting the causes of the Third World.

On the first day, the PNC received His Excellency struggling President Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, who opened the session and addressed it, affirming the cohesion of the struggle of the Palestinian and Syrian Arab peoples. He also focused on the uniqueness of the Palestinian revolution in the Arab struggle movement and reiterated Syria's commitment to the Palestinian cause, revolution and continuing national rights.

The PNC sessions were attended by many delegations of the fraternal Arab and friendly countries [words indistinct] and the political organizations of these states. These delegations participated, through the speeches they made, in enriching the PNC discussions and in affirming their support of the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people and their just cause.

The council devoted a special meeting to honor his beatitude the bishop of Jerusalem in exile, militant Hilarion Capucu, after he was unanimously elected as an honorary member in appreciation of his struggle for the just cause of our people and in honor of all militants of the sons of our people in the occupation prisons and all those who defend the cause of liberation and justice.

The convocation of this session coincided with a very decisive phase through which our Arab area is passing. The Arab area has been subjected to the most dangerous links in the imperialist-Zionist onslaught represented by the form, substance, results and effects of the Camp David accords, which aim to liquidate the Palestine question and the firm national rights of the Palestinian people as well as to isolate Egypt by the hands of its ruling regime, which has tried to take Egypt out of the circle of the Arab-Zionist conflict. This is only one step by imperialism and Zionism on the way toward dominating the whole Arab area, controlling its destiny and eventually eliminating the achievements of the Palestinian revolution and the Arab liberation movement. This trend has been faced by the masses of our people, under the leadership of the PLO; by the masses of our Arab nation, particularly our Arab people in Egypt, represented by their nationalist movement; by the pan-Arab Front for Steadfastness and Confrontation and its resolutions; by the general Arab popular conference; by the declaration of the National Charter for Joint Action between fraternal Syria and Iraq; and by the convocation of the Baghdad Arab summit. All this has further underlined the significance of our Palestine cause in the course of the Arab struggle. This has also further confirmed the decisive and firm determination to repulse the imperialist-Zionist onslaught on the Arab area and to further consolidate the PLO-led Palestinian struggle inside and outside the occupied homeland. This determination has clearly shown the isolation of the U.S. and As-Sadat's policies in the Arab area.

Therefore, among the enlightened PLO leadership and its National Council, who have warned of the seriousness of this phase and the danger represented in the capitulatory accords and the destructive role of the Egyptian regime, the PNC conducted its discussions and made decisions regarding the responsibilities of the Palestinian revolution and its masses inside the occupied homeland and in the Diaspora, taking into consideration the Arab renaissance that was practically expressed in the Baghdad summit's resolutions and the unionist steps between Syria and Iraq. Basing itself on all this, the PNC formulated political, financial, military and informational resolutions. The PNC particularly underlined and concentrated on the political program and the organizational procedures that will undoubtedly deepen the efficiency and the comprehensiveness of the Palestinian national unity. The council unanimously approved those two programs.

The PNC reconfirmed its stand toward the Camp David accords, considering the accords and their results, including the autonomy plan in the West Bank and Gaza, as a conspiracy that should be rejected and repulsed with all possible means. The council views the unanimous struggling Arab stand based on the resolutions of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, the Arab People's Congress and the Baghdad summit resolutions as achievements we should adhere to and work for in order to further develop them. The council regards the National Action Charter between Syria and Iraq as a basic pillar in confronting the conspiracy and restoring the strategic balance with the Zionist enemy. This makes it necessary to support this charter in order to achieve its goals as soon as possible. The council also stressed the importance of work to support the steadfastness of our kinsfolk in our occupied homeland and their struggle against the autonomy plan and the Zionist occupation. It also stressed the importance of qualitative and quantitative escalation of armed struggle against the Zionist enemy in our occupied homeland.

The council also approved the subject of dialog with Jordan according to the controls and aims approved by the political program in this respect, especially those matters directly linked to resisting and thwarting the Camp David accords and the self-rule plan. The council also discussed the Zionist and isolationist plot against fraternal Lebanon and affirmed its adherence to the unity, independence and Arabism of Lebanon. It also affirmed the need to enhance the close relations of struggle with Lebanese nationalist and patriotic forces as well as the masses of the heroic Lebanese people with their different sects, thus proceeding from the fact that the Lebanese isolationist leadership does not embody the will of those they claim to be representing among the masses of the heroic people of Lebanon.

The National Council calls on all the national, pan-Arab and progressive forces in the Arab homeland--particularly in Egypt--to coordinate and develop their relations so as to topple the Camp David accords and the U.S.-Zionist course of capitulation, and to support the Palestinian revolution in achieving its national objectives.

The council noted with anxiety the U.S. influence aimed at suspending the UNRWA role. It also noted the successive plots being practiced by UNRWA toward our kinsfolk in the Palestinian camps inside and outside the occupied homeland. It decided to take the necessary measures and hold the necessary contacts in this regard in such a manner that will insure the interests of our people and foil these plots. The National Council holds UNRWA responsible for the results of its recent suspect activities and the harm done to the interests of our people as well as the reaction of the Palestinian masses to this.

The PNC, while it is aware of the U.S.' and Zionist's role in the fierce plotting against the Palestine cause, people and its leadership, represented in the PLO, hails all the friendly forces which stand on the side of our people in their struggle to regain their usurped rights, particularly the socialist countries, at the head of which is the Soviet Union, as well as our friends and allies in the Islamic countries, the nonalined countries, the African and Asian countries, and the democratic forces and parties that support us.

The PNC also discussed the situation in Iran. It affirmed its support of the Iranian revolution under the great struggler Ayatollah Khomeyni since this revolution firmly sides with the Palestine cause and the struggle of the Palestinian people against the Zionist enemy. The PNC hails this young revolution and wishes it complete victory so that it can place Iran's resources and its fraternal heroic people in the ranks of struggle against imperialism and Zionism to liberate Palestine and holy Jerusalem.

The PNC has empowered the PLO Executive Committee to implement the contents of the PNC resolutions related to the political program, the organizational program, and the resolutions of the political, financial and military and other committees and to pay special attention to the Palestinian social organizations, including the care for the families of the martyrs and the detained prisoners. Thus, the current PLO Executive Committee will continue its task in accordance with the bylaws of the PLO, provided that the study and approval of the rules governing this subject take place before the expiration of the mandate of the current PNC.

The PNC concluded its work by sending a cable of thanks and appreciation to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, for opening and sponsoring the PNC meetings, and another cable of thanks to the struggling Syrian Workers Federation for the helpful facilities it rendered to the PNC.

The PNC, while it hails the steadfastness and struggle of our people in the occupied areas and the Lebanese people and their nationalist forces that are working for Lebanon's unity, Arabism, and independence, and while it hails all the friends and allies of the Palestinian people and the Egyptian nationalist forces that reject the Camp David plot, pledges to the Palestinian people and all free men to continue the struggle until all plots are toppled and victory is achieved.

KUWAITI PAPER REPORTS POWER STRUGGLE WITHIN PLO

LD241647 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 23 Jan 79 p 1 LD

[Unattributed report]

[Text] Damascus--A silent power struggle within the PLO reached its climax yesterday as competing Fedayeen organizations were racing to obtain places on the Executive Committee.

Extremist Palestinian sources said that the main discussions center on replacing some of the nine independent committee members who have helped PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat retain power on the committee.

The sources said that 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, PLO spokesman and 'Arafat's personal friend, lost his place, but there has been no official confirmation.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] was certain to obtain the place on the committee which it abandoned 4 years ago in protest against the committee's relatively moderate policy.

The conference is expected to be concluded within 24 hours with the adoption of resolutions condemning the Israeli-Egyptian peace moves and calling for the escalation of fedayeen operations against Israel.

INA: RIGHTIST MILITIA CAR CONNECTED TO ABU HASAN ASSASSINATION

JN251020 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 25 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Beirut, 25 January--Sources from the Palestinian committee investigating the assassination of martyr 'Ali Hasan Salamah have announced that another of the cars used in the assassination operation has been found.

The sources pointed out that the car, a Chrysler, was rented from a car rental company. The car was found in Juniyah, 15 km north of Beirut, which is under the control of the rightist militias. The sources explained that the second car was either prepared for another operation or intended to replace the booby-trapped car that caused the death of Abu Hasan and four of his companions.

DAMASCUS RADIO REPORTS GRADUATION OF NEW FEDAYEEN CLASS

JN241714 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Damascus--A new class of the As-Sa'iqah forces [Popular Liberation War Vanguard Organization] named after martyr 'Atwah Abu Mandil graduated in Damascus today at a ceremony held at the As-Sa'iqah training camp under the patronage of Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

The ceremony was attended by Comrade Zuhayr Muhsin, secretary general of the General Command of the As-Sa'iqah forces, members of the regional command of the unified political organization within the Ba'th Party, members of the Damascus branch command of the Ba'th Party, and members of the Palestinian branch command of the unified political organization within the party. The ceremony was also attended by brother 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, the PLO official spokesman, and Talal Naji, member of the PLO Executive Committee.

SAUDI ARABIA

IMPORTERS WARNED AGAINST PRICE HIKES BY MINISTER

LD241958 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1750 GMT 24 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Riyadh--The Ministry of Industry and Electricity has received instructions from Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to warn importers of machinery and raw materials and other companies against unreasonably raising their prices. Otherwise, he said, the kingdom will stop once and for all any dealings with them, and their goods will be completely banned from entering the kingdom. This was stated by Dr Ghazi al-Qusaybi, the minister of industry and electricity, who said that his department will inform all importers and their agents in the kingdom of his instructions. He said that the ministry has observed that a number of importers of industrial equipment and raw materials suddenly raised their prices considerably on the pretext of the OPEC conference's decision to increase oil prices this year by 10 percent. The minister stressed that, having examined the claims of those importers, he found them baseless.

YEMEN--PDRY

LEBANESE NASIRITE MOVEMENT LEADER ENDS VISIT TO ADEN

LD241648 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Jan 79 LD/EA

[Summary] Ibrahim Qulaylat, chairman of the Command Council of the Independent Nasirite Movement, and the delegation accompanying him, left Aden today after a visit to Democratic Yemen that lasted several days. The delegation met Chairman 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il and Prime Minister 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and also held talks with a Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] delegation.

"In a statement, brother Ibrahim Qulaylat expressed the admiration of the Nasirite Movement and all the Lebanese nationalist forces for the revolutionary experiment in Democratic Yemen. He praised the principled policies adopted by the YSP and Democratic Yemen's Government at the pan-Arab level.

"A joint communique has been issued on the visit of the delegation of the Independent Nasirite Movement. It states that the delegations of the YSP and the Independent Nasirite Movement reviewed conditions in the Arab region in general and condemned imperialist and reactionary conspiracies in it.

"The delegation of the Nasirite Movement expressed appreciation for the victories of the Yemeni people, led by the YSP, in building their life and confronting imperialist, Zionist and reactionary designs.

"The two sides condemned As-Sadat's treasonous and capitulatory policy and the Camp David accords. They supported the principled and inalienable right of the struggle of the Palestinian people. They affirmed support for the struggle of the Egyptian people and their nationalist movement against the As-Sadat regime and its treasonous policy. They stressed the need to back the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front and the Arab People's General Congress. They urged Iraq to join the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front. They also stressed the need to consolidate friendship and cooperation with socialist countries, headed by the USSR.

"They condemned the imperialist conspiracy to establish security alliances in the Arabian Gulf and Red Sea areas with the aim of plotting against the progressive regime in Democratic Yemen. They advocated peaceful means for solving differences in the Horn of Africa in order to realize the national interests of the peoples of this region."

YEMEN--YAR

FOREIGN MINISTER INTERVIEWED BY SAUDI PAPER

LD241218 R'yadh SNA in Arabic 0630 GMT 24 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Riyadh--YAR Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj has stressed that what is happening in the region requires continuous consultations with the brethren and joint coordination, especially with the kingdom, for the good of the Arab and Islamic peoples. Al-Asnaj, in an interview given to Al-JAZIRAH and published today, said that the Yemen Arab Republic fundamentally depended on Yemeni-Saudi cooperation in the implementation of its ambitious 5-year plan. The Yemeni for ign minister declared that the joint Yemeni-Saudi Coordination Council was to be held in March. He said we have great confidence in the success of this meeting due to the constructive spirit of past meetings which has prevailed over the fruitful, fraternal Yemeni-Saudi cooperation [words indistinct].

Regarding the security of the Red Sea, Al-Asnaj said: Yemen still maintains its posture regarding the security of the Red Sea, believing that it should be removed from international conflicts and free from the presence of any naval fleets. He continued: We are anxious that this sea should remain peaceful and stable in the interest of the countries bordering it. Al-Asnaj refused to name the state which [words indistinct] the recent abortive coup in San'a and he said: We prefer to rise above the wounds and to bear and suffer in our desire not to further increase the existing deterioration and fragmentation of the Arab world.

DJIBOUTI FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES FOR VISIT

JN241950 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Djibouti Foreign Minister Moumin Bahdon Farah arrived in San'a' today on a brief visit to the YAR. He was met by Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj and the chief of protocol.

IRANIAN STUDENTS OCCUPY CAIRO CULTURAL CENTER

TA242005 Paris AFP in English 2000 GMT 24 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jan (AFP)--Thirty-seven Iranian students occupied the Iranian Cultural Center here today and began a hunger strike in support of three comrades who were jailed for protesting against plans by the shah of Iran to reside in Egypt.

The three students were arrested while participating in a peaceful demonstration. A reliable source here said the Iranian ambassador in Cairo, 'Abbas Neyyeri, had contacted the Egyptian Foreign and Interior Ministries to ask that the students be freed.

An official at the cultural center said the students occupying it had removed pictures of the shah from walls and replaced them with those of exiled opposition leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni.

AS-SADAT SENDS MESSAGE TO CARTER ON MIDEAST SITUATION

NC242254 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2235 GMT 24 Jan 79 NC

[Press review]

[Excerpt] Cairo, 24 January--Reporting on the peace process in the Middle East, the newspaper AL-AHRAM says that President Anwar as-Sadat asked the U.S. ambassador in Cairo to convey a verbal message to U.S. President Jimmy Carter containing Egypt's view on the Middle East situation, together with a comprehensive assessment of the peace process in the area by President as-Sadat. The message also includes Egypt's view on the events in Iran and a full analysis of all developments in the area.

AMBASSADOR ATHERTON ARRIVES IN CAIRO 24 JAN

NC250628 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2335 GMT 24 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 24 January--U.S. roving ambassador in the Middle East Alfred Atherton and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Cairo tonight from Israel following a 1-week visit.

He was received at the airport by Dr Usamah al-Baz, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry first under secretary.

Atherton made a statement after his arrival in which he said he is happy to return to Cairo. He said that the U.S. secretary of state sent him and State Department legal adviser Mr Hansell to continue the discussions taking place between the U.S. Government and the Governments of Egypt and Israel regarding the peace negotiations and the peace-making process in the area.

He said he spent a week in Israel in talks on the outstanding issues connected with the text of the peace treaty. Atherton added that he will inform the officials in Cairo of the results of his talks in Israel and will also hear the views of the Egyptian Government. He added: I am looking forward to meet my friends in Cairo.

In reply to correspondents' questions, Atherton said that he discussed in Israel three specific outstanding subjects pertaining to the text of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel.

Atherton pointed out that his mission is to deal with issues connected with the treaty, including some of the articles and gaps in the treaty. He said that there are other points which should be discussed when it is possible to resume the talks on a ministerial level. He said that his mission is to try to pave the way for holding negotiations on a ministerial level. Atherton said that he intends to return to Israel following his talks in Cairo in order to continue these negotiations.

Ghali, Atherton Meeting

NC251105 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1052 GMT 25 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 25 January--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali today met with U.S. roving ambassador in the Middle East Alfred Atherton. The two men discussed the Middle East situation in light of Atherton's visit to Israel and the discussions he held there.

The meeting began at 1130 today. It was attended on the Egyptian side by Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Dr Usamah al-Baz, and on the U.S. side by U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Hermann Eilts and U.S. State Department legal adviser Hansell.

GHALI INTERVIEWED ON PEACE TALKS, OTHER ISSUES

NC241725 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 24 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 24 January--Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has affirmed that the establishment of a just, permanent and comprehensive peace in the Middle East is Egypt's aim, which it is trying hard to achieve despite the many obstacles and difficulties. He says that despite these obstacles Egypt was able, in the Camp David agreements, to lay the firm and unshakable basis for the achievement of peace in the Middle East, which must lead to Israel's withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967; the achievement of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to establish their national authority on their land and expel any foreign domination; and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all the countries in the region, enabling them to live in peace.

This was contained in an interview which Dr Butrus Ghali granted to the weekly magazine AL-MUSAWWAR, to be published tomorrow. In this interview, Dr Ghali deals with the peace agreement between Egypt and Israel; the situations in Iran, Southeast Asia and Africa; and U.S.-Chinese relations.

Referring to some of the points of disagreement which are important and vital as far as Egypt is concerned and which constitute an obstacle to the signing of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, Dr Ghali says that one of these points is Artivle VI of the draft peace treaty. Egypt insists that the provisions of this article must not, under any circumstances, affect its national commitments toward the Arab nation.

He adds that another point of disagreement is Article IV regarding the security arrangement in Sinai. Egypt insists that both sides commit themselves to reviewing these arrangements if one of them so desires after a period of application.

He says that the establishment of peace and the clarity of good intentions will make many of these arrangements superfluous.

Referring to the current mission of Alfred Atherton, the U.S. roving Ambassador in the Middle East, Dr Ghali says in his interview with AL-MUSAWWAR magazine that it seems that during this tour Atherton will not deal with the issue of linkage between progress on the West Bank and the realization of Israeli withdrawal from Sinai, and the need to abide by a timetable for the implementation of the measures of full autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This is something which Egypt fully insists on. He says that this issue will be dealt with on another level at a later stage.

He expresses the hope that Atherton's mission will end with the achievement of tangible progress that would facilitate full agreement on the draft treaty and would enable Egypt and Israel to sign and ratify it in the near future.

Referring to the Begin government's insistence on establishing new settlements and strengthening old ones, Dr Ghali says that this constitutes a flagrant violation of the spirit of Camp David agreements and Israel's other commitments in this respect. It also casts doubt on the intentions of the Israeli Government.

He declares Egypt's rejection and denunciation of these Israeli actions. He says that the United States and the international community share this attitude with us. In this respect he points out that Israel cannot find people to live in these settlements which it is building. This explains that its real purpose is to try to place obstacles to peace, to stir up the Palestinians by these actions, to push them toward extremism in their actions and positions and to make them refuse to participate in the peace efforts. This is a trap which Israel is setting for them.

In his interview with AL-MUSAWWAR magazine, Dr Ghali then turns to the present situation in Iran. He says: The disturbances in this area have not only shaken Iranian society but have also affected all of this sensitive area at a time when the expansionist intentions of the Soviet power in the direction of the south toward the Middle East and Africa have become very clear. He adds: The difficulties which Iran is confronting and the new conditions in this society call for a thorough followup to prevent some foreign forces from exploiting the situation in their interest and implementing their plans in the areas. He then expresses hope that the sincere national forces of the Iranian people will be able to agree on a formula which would restore stability to Iran and its people, who have close historical ties with Egypt.

Regarding conditions in Africa, Dr Ghali emphasizes that the African states must shoulder their responsibilities by helping and supporting international society in its efforts to tackle and end the unnatural conditions in the southern part of the continent. In this respect, he refers to the OAU's role in trying to find suitable formulas for ending the deep disputes among the African states. He says that these disputes only harm the peoples of the continent and ultimately achieve aims alien to those of these peoples. He also hopes that the African national forces will succeed in destroying the last signs of exploitation and racist discrimination and in ending foreign interference and solving the political problems which have so far hindered the establishment of cooperation and fraternal relations among some states on the continent.

Corporation

Concerning the normalization of U.S. Chinese relations, Dr Ghali stresses that the official restoration of relations will have great effects on international relations. He says: We hope that the normalization of U.S.-Chinese relations will lead to a complete normalization of relations not only in Asia but also in other areas of the world.

Referring to the unstable situation in Southeast Asia, Dr Ghali says that Egypt hopes that all peoples in this area will agree on suitable formulas for cooperation among themselves without any foreign interference. He says that Egypt condemns every aggression against these states and every interference in their domestic affairs.

Regarding international relaxation, Dr Ghali says that this relaxation will remain stable to a large extent as long as neither of the two superpowers attempts to encroach upon what the other superpower considers as vital interests and as long as no attempt is made to impose certain conditions on small peoples against their will. Dr Ghali adds: In light of this, I believe that this year the United States and the Soviet Union will strive to reach a new agreement on the limitation of strategic arms.

In conclusion, Dr Ghali stresses that in view of all these international changes, Egypt will honestly and faithfully continue its Arab, African and Islamic struggle and will continue to follow the direction it is taking with firm strides.

ARAB ECONOMIC UNITY COUNCIL SECRETARY GENERAL EXPELLED

NC250636 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2345 GMT 24 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 24 January--In its Thursday issue, the newspaper AL-AHRAM reports that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry yesterday informed Dr Fakhri Gadduri, the secretary general of the Arab Economic Unity Council, that it has been decided to deport him [istib'adahu] from Egypt because of security requirements. He was informed of this decision through diplomatic channels. He is due to leave Cairo for Baghdad this Saturday. AL-AHRAM says that this decision was made because Gadduri failed to abide by the observed rules of diplomatic immunity, which are based on respect for the laws and sovereignty of the state. His violation of these laws has made him persona non grata.

TRANSPORT MINISTER DEPARTS FOR ROMANIA, FRG

NC231620 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1516 GMT 23 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 23 January--This afternoon, Minister of Transport and Communications 'Ali Fahmi ad-Daghistani, left Cairo for Bucharest accompanied by the chairman of the board of directors of the Railway Authority, Eng 'Abd al-Mun'im Hismat Jadd. The two men will visit Romania and the FRG during a tour that will end 4 February.

Prior to his departure, Eng 'Ali Fahmi ad-Daghistani said that, during his visit, he will hold talks in Romania and West Germany with officials who are responsible for transport and communications, and that the purpose of these talks is to consolidate Romanian and West German cooperation with Egypt in the fields of railways and telecommunications. The minister of transport and communications said that in Romania, he will attend the ceremony for handing over an installment of 300 third-class railway coaches which are being manufactured in Romania for the Egyptian railway.

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES IRAN, RELATIONS WITH USSR

LD231401 Paris AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI in Arabic 22 Jan 79 pp 6, 7 LD

[Interview granted by Iraqi Foreign Minister Sa'dun Hammadi to 'Abd al-Karim Abu an-Nasr in Paris "following the conclusion of Iraqi-French talks"]

[Text] [Question] How do you evaluate the results of the Iraqi delegation's visit to Paris? Was there an identity of views between the Iraqi and French sides on the Middle East situation, and how did France's stand toward the Camp David accords appear to you?

[Answer] Our visit to France is in fact part of the series of visits which we agreed to exchange between Iraq and France not only to maintain the present level of good relations, but also to further develop such relations. We are accustomed to organizing high-level visits between the leaders of both countries. Naturally, the relations between the two countries in the fields of economy and technology are growing. I am particularly pleased with the political statements in the speeches of President Giscard d'Estaing and Prime Minister Raymond Barre, despite the fact that these political statements show differences of views regarding the nature of the problem of the Arab-Zionist conflict and regarding the way to solve this problem. It is worth noting that the French Government clearly supports the Palestinian people's rights and does not share the views that favor the Camp David accords either in content or as a method. The French Government has, in the present circumstances in particular, declared its support for the unity of the Arab world. This is of special significance in present conditions. It is known, of course, that Iraq supports the unity of the Western European countries. The French side has clearly indicated its great appreciation of Iraq's independent policy and Iraq's efforts to keep the Arab world and the Arab Gulf in particular free from international disputes and conflicts and outside international blocs. Thus France has implicitly declared its support for Iraq's nonalined policy. We believe that this aspect of French foreign policy is noteworthy and appreciated. During the talks (between the Iraqi delegation and the French officials), there were clear indications of the possibility of the Camp David accords failing. This shows that Iraq's attitude and the attitude of the Arab countries which rejected the agreements from the beginning was correct. We have said from the beginning that we are not alone in rejecting the agreements. Rather, all the Arab countries have rejected them at the Baghdad summit. There are several European governments that share this view with us.

[Question] The situation in Iran recently deteriorated and the possibilities of a radical change in this country are greater than ever before. One of these possibilities is the establishment of an Islamic republic and Ayatollah Khomeyni's assuming power. How does Iraq evaluate the development of events in Iran, and what is its attitude toward it and the possibility of a new regime emerging?

[Answer] Iraq's attitude toward Iran will never change. Iraq insists on the principle of noninterference in the domestic affairs of other countries and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of one another's country. It believes in a policy of cooperation and neighborliness based on legitimate common interests. Within this framework there will be no change in Iraq's attitude. We believe that these principles are sound and, in the long term, in the real interest of both countries.

The violation of such principles in the short term might benefit this or that country, but this is not the basis on which international relations must be founded. With regard to a possible new regime in Iran, this depends on the regime itself and particularly on the extent of its adherence to such principles. In any case, I must say the new Iranian Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhtiar's recent statements have been met with satisfaction by us. This particularly concerns his statement that Iran must not play the role of a policeman in the Arab Gulf and that Iran will break its relations with the Zionist entity and will not sell oil to Israel and South Africa. These statements are bound to be met with satisfaction on our part. I must also say that we only wish Iran stability so that peace will prevail and it will be able to solve its own problems.

[Question] Much has been said regarding the nature of Iraqi-Soviet relations. In mid-1978, it appeared to observers that these relations were lukewarm and even strained because of differences in attitudes following developments in the Horn of Africa in general and the Ethiopian-Eritrean conflict in particular. Following Vice Chairman of the Revolution Command Council Saddam Husayn's visit to Moscow (last December), these relations seemed to have resumed their normal amicable course. What is your evaluation of Iraqi-Soviet relations?

[Answer] Iraqi-Soviet relations are subject to the principle of independence and friendship. We are a country that has an independent and nonalined foreign policy, which we translate into practice in our daily application. We are not content with only raising the slogan of independence and nonalinement. The Soviet Union is a major power and the leader of a bloc; it has its own international policy. We cannot imagine that there should be a complete identity in international relations between us, as a country pursuing an independent and nonalined policy, and the Soviet Union, as a world power and the leader of a camp. Identity in this case is unimaginable. We are linked to the Soviet Union through ties of friendship. The practical translation of this is that we should cooperate and participate in matters in which we have common interests. Our relations do not become hostile because of matters we disagree upon. This is what the policy of independence and friendship means. The best way to describe our foreign relations with the Soviet Union is to say that our relations follow an upward but zigzagged line.

[Question] After the Soviet Union, Saddam Husayn went to Cuba. It was reported that he suggested to Dr Fidel Castro the idea of convening a peace conference to solve the Ethiopian-Eritrean dispute. What happened in Cuba?

[Answer] We discuss the Eritrean problem every time we meet with Cuban officials. The reason for this is well-known: namely, that we have strong relations with Eritrea. We are pleased to note that Cuba has understood our viewpoint and has sincerely promised that its attitude toward Eritrea will be different from its attitude toward Ogaden. I believe that this understanding has been reflected in Cuba's practical stand in the Horn of Africa. This was the extent of our success in reaching understanding with Cuba on this matter.

[Question] Cuba gave military support to Ethiopia during the Ogaden war against Somalia. Does this mean that Cuba now supports a peaceful settlement of the Ethiopian-Eritrean conflict and that it will not interfere militarily in Eritrea?

[Answer] I believe that Cuba supports a peaceful solution in Eritrea acceptable to all the parties.

[Question] How much progress has been made in the efforts to establish a political and military alliance between Syria and Iraq, and what role can the new Syrian-Iraqi power play in the area?

[Answer] The current contacts between Syria and Iraq are not aimed at creating a Syrian-Iraqi alliance. The purpose of these contacts and meetings that were and still are being held in Baghdad and Damascus is to create a new state consisting of Iraq and Syria. Therefore, certainly the real motive behind establishing such a relationship is not political but national. There is a difference between a political and national motive. The new relationship between Iraq and Syria emerged shortly before the Baghdad summit. In the Arab field, Iraq pursues a policy opposed to the policy of axes and alliances. The Baghdad summit was an expression of the national viewpoint in Iraqi foreign policy. The Baghdad summit was not based on an alliance or an axis. Rather, all the Arab countries have met and agreed on a minimum stand toward the principal national cause: namely, the Palestine problem. Syria and Iraq are pursuing a scientific method to achieve unification beginning with economic, political and social unification and ending with finding radical solutions for the principal problems of unification leading to the creation of a new united entity. During the first meeting between the Iraqi and Syrian commands, which was attended by Presidents Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and Hafiz al-Asad, discussions were held regarding a unification program. At the meeting agreement was reached on the program we are now implementing. This program was clearly established in the text of the Joint National Action Charter between Iraq and Syria.

[Question] When will President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr visit Damascus and an Iraqi-Syrian summit be held?

[Answer] This visit must take place some time in the future. Such a meeting is bound to take place, but so far no date has been set for this visit.

[Question] What is your evaluation of the situation in Lebanon, and what would be the impact there of the creation of a new Syrian-Iraqi State?

[Answer] The establishment of a state consisting of Iraq and Syria would strengthen Lebanon's security against foreign aggression. The establishment of such a state would create wider economic opportunities that would enable Lebanon to improve its position and lessen the chances of non-Arab interference. The upshot of all this would be the emergence of a new state next to Lebanon, a state that will be a strong supporter of it and help it to solve its problems. As the proverb says, the strong are more capable of solving problems than the weak. It is true that the Lebanese situation has become complicated, but I do not believe that the possibilities of finding a solution for the Lebanese problem are nonexistent. I would imagine, for example, an Arab state or several Arab states undertaking the national task of finding a solution for Lebanon's problem, a solution on which the majority of the Arab states interested in Lebanon, including Syria, would agree. Such a solution should be acceptable to the legitimate Lebanese Government, the Lebanese National Movement and the Palestinian resistance, as well as to some of the major powers. If such a solution is coupled with an economic and financial aid program for Lebanon, then an effort of this sort is bound to succeed. The difficulty in it is to find an Arab side that is ready and whose conditions allow it to undertake such a task, which requires patience and extensive efforts. Of course, such an Arab side must be trusted by all the parties concerned. If such a proposal is submitted to the Lebanese Front after all these conditions are met, then it would be possible for us to find a realistic and balanced solution in Lebanon.

[Question] Among other things, events in Iran have shown that major powers cannot be relied upon constantly. What would be the impact of this situation on the Arab Gulf?

[Answer] The Arab Gulf states and probably all the other countries are called upon to learn the lesson of what has happened in international politics. They must clearly see that the policy of relying on major power is, in the final analysis, a fruitless policy. From the beginning we have said that the Arab Gulf states must seek their security and stability through Arab cooperation and solidarity as well as through building their own strength. We are not in favor of an axis in the Arab policy, but we do support every Arab rapprochement whose purpose is genuine and sincere cooperation. There is no doubt that what has happened in Iran has created some sort of fear in the Arab Gulf. What is important is not fear, but rather translating such fear into greater Arab solidarity and building strength.

[Question] How do you view Iraq's relations with Saudi Arabia?

[Answer] Our relations with Saudi Arabia are good. They are based on a minimum agreement regarding the question of conflict with the Zionist enemy. This in itself is something substantial and good. Sometimes we disagree with the Saudis on certain things. This is a known fact. I would like to mention here that in the past years we tried to reach a minimum political agreement with Saudi Arabia regarding the Arab Gulf but we failed. However, I believe that the present conditions and the developments of the situation are now suitable for reaching a minimum political agreement with Saudi Arabia regarding the Arab Gulf region. I hope that this will happen because the conditions are opportune.

[Question] Messages are now being exchanged between Iraq and Kuwait. Will this lead to an early, high-level meeting between the two countries?

[Answer] I would expect an early meeting between Iraq and Kuwait.

[Question] The Egyptian-Israeli negotiations are now at an impasse. Does this mean that these negotiations will fail and no Egyptian-Israel treaty will be signed, or does it mean that the signing of a treaty has merely been postponed?

[Answer] I am inclined to believe that President as-Sadat will eventually sign a separate agreement because from the beginning he chose the path of surrender and solution at any price. Whoever chooses such policy is bound to carry it through to its conclusion. Israel will concede nothing. If an Egyptian-Israel agreement is signed, it would be the result of As-Sadat's concessions and not Israel's. Of course, it is possible that some formal concessions might be made, but it will be As-Sadat who will be making substantial concessions. Whether President as-Sadat will sign a separate agreement or not, this will change nothing in the situation. As-Sadat has chosen a non-Arab policy of cooperating with the United States, a policy that foresakes national Arab interests and even Egyptian sovereignty over all the Egyptian soil. With regard to the Camp David accords, it can be said that they have failed regardless of whether As-Sadat signs an agreement or not. This is because the United States, President as-Sadat and Israel seem to have wagered on the disunity of the Arab countries and their inability to adopt a stand that, in their views, would prompt the other Arab countries concerned to accept the Camp David accords. This has not happened, and we will not let it happen.

[Question] It was said in the past that Iraq will not change its attitude toward the United States and will not reestablish diplomatic relations with it unless Washington radically changes its Middle East policy. In the light of the outcome of Camp David, what is the situation regarding Iraqi-U.S. relations, and what are the future possibilities?

[Answer] There is no change in Iraq's attitude toward the United States. All that is being reported in the press is mere speculation and an expression of desires. The United States follows a biased policy in dealing with the Arab-Zionist conflict. Therefore, we are not contemplating the resumption of diplomatic relations. Although we believe that breaking relations between one country and another is normal, we do not say that the relations will remain broken forever. But at present, and in view of the current situation, our relations with the United States are cut off.

NONALINED JOURNALISTS CONCLUDE MEETING, ISSUE STATEMENT

JN242052 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 24 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 24 January--The Nonalined Journalists have strongly condemned the Camp David capitulationist agreements and all the policies that relinquish the national rights of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation.

In a statement issued at the conclusion of their meetings here this evening, the Nonalined Journalists announced their full support for these resolutions adopted during the ninth Arab summit conference in Baghdad that pertain to the outcome of the Camp David conference.

The statement called on the Nonalined Journalists to acquaint the people in their countries and the world in general with these resolutions. It also condemned all forms of racism, especially the Zionist entity and the two regimes of Rhodesia and South Africa.

The Nonalined Journalists announced their solidarity with the journalists struggling against oppression in Latin America, Asia, Africa and elsewhere, especially those arrested, persecuted, banished and prevented from working because of their national struggle.

In their statement, the Nonalined Journalists pointed out that the use of mercenaries in degrading work belittles man's value and uses human beings in acts that are against their rights and national dignity as well as against the independence and freedom of states. They strongly condemned the policy of mobilizing mercenaries and called for exposing and condemning its practice as well as for standing by man's rights everywhere.

They called on the nonalined states to orient information media toward defending their soil and national dignity. They also called for developing culture and national information media for the political, economic and social independence of the majority of states that should not be deprived of the right to receive and transmit this information.

They urged that efforts be made to draw up the bases of a new world information order to give distinctly national character to the information media in all fields and to eliminate defects and the hegemony of the colonialist states over the media.

The statement called on the Nonalined Journalists to have the spirit of high responsibility and to be interested in the objectivity and embodiment of the will of unity and commitment in dealing with all disagreements in a scientific spirit, which helps solve them without being dragged into an escalation of these disagreements and into a stirring up of grudges.

On the professional level, the Nonalined Journalists highly evaluated Iraq's initiative represented in its readiness to accept students from nonalined states at the solidarity institute, which will be opened in Baghdad soon. They also welcomed the readiness of UNESCO, the International Union of Journalists and the International Organization of Journalists to offer all sorts of help in training these journalists.

They recommended that a study and training center for nonalined journalists be set up in Baghdad in accordance with the recommendations of the 1976 Tunis media meeting. They also recommended that a coordination bureau be formed to follow up on the implementation of this meeting's recommendations.

The Nonalined Journalists stressed the need to exchange information, expertise and journalists to bring peoples closer together and promote the horizontal flow of information and news in a way that will activate cooperation and widen its scope so as to serve the new world information order. They also stressed the need to improve national legislation; coordinate the work of international organizations; adhere to the freedom of exercising journalistic work; and enhance the truthfulness of the nonalined information media so that it will be more effective and enjoy the confidence of the masses.

They decided to hold the second meeting of Nonalined Journalists shortly before the convocation of the nonalined conference in Baghdad in 1982.

At the conclusion of their statement, they called on nonalined journalists to coordinate their efforts at international conferences, offer professional services to other nonalined journalists and organize a special kind of consultative cooperation for the journalists.

It will be recalled that the first meeting of the Nonalined Journalists began in Baghdad last Sunday with the participation of 30 journalists' organizations.

The participants elected Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, minister of information and doyen of Iraqi journalists, as chairman of the coordination bureau for implementation of the meeting's recommendations. The bureau membership comprises representatives from Iraq, India, Vietnam, Tunisia, Morocco, Togo, Tanzania, Cuba, Guyana and Yugoslavia.

Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, chairman of the meeting, delivered a speech in which he expressed his thanks and appreciation in the name of Iraq for the efforts exerted by the delegations during the meeting and for the suggestions and ideas put forward during the committee sessions and the general meeting. He also praised the fruitful and positive results of the meetings.

He said: The Baghdad meeting was one step toward creative cooperation between the nonalined journalist organizations within the framework of consolidating their people's relations, the service of mankind and the publication of the concepts of good, justice and peace in the world.

The Nonalined Journalists greeted the Joint National Action Charter between fraternal Iraq and Syria, considering it the most prominent event witnessed by the Arab region in the face of the imperialist-Zionist challenges. They strongly condemned the continuous Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon and expressed their solidarity with the Palestinian and Lebanese people and their progressive and nationalist forces in facing this aggression. They also called for a just solution to the Horn of Africa issue.

Journalists Cable President al-Bakr

JN241854 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Jan 79 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 24 January--The Nonalined Journalists have praised Iraq's continuous support for the activities of the nonalined movement and its journalists to lay down the bases of a new, just and effective world information order that contributes to backing the peoples' right to a free and dignified life.

This was contained in a cable they addressed to President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and Revolution Command Council Vice Chairman Saddam Husayn at the conclusion of their first meeting here this evening.

PAPER SAYS VISIT OF F-15'S TO SAUDI ARABIA PROVOKES ARABS

LD241705 Baghdad TARIQ ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 16 Jan 79 pp 1, 3 LD

[Editorial: "In Light of Escalating U.S. Imperialist Activity, Unity of Nationalist Forces' Struggle Is an Effective Weapon"]

[Excerpts] The Middle East is witnessing important events and developments that essentially reflect the escalating conflict between the liberation forces and their enemies--U.S. imperialism, Zionism and reaction. Central to this conflict is the Arab struggle against Israeli occupation and for the sake of the Palestinian people's right to return to their homes and to self-determination.

The plan to confront this mounting struggle, which enjoys the support of the forces of progress and socialism, especially the Soviet Union, is represented in the efforts to conclude a treasonable capitulationist agreement between As-Sadat's regime and Tel Aviv under the aegis of U.S. imperialism as a continuation and culmination of the ill-famed Camp David accords.

The forces of the Arab national liberation movement have realized the serious consequences of this agreement, which is designed to become a comprehensive and multifaceted political, military and economic alliance that would be spearheaded against the just struggle. It would also be a means to restore and consolidate U.S. imperialist interests, particularly in our Arab countries, and strengthen the hold on our petroleum resources and our strategic positions as part of the U.S. imperialist global strategy.

Developments in Iran, the escalation of the Iranian people's struggle and the consequences of this struggle for the Iranian regime will weaken the role the Iranian regime has played within U.S. imperialist strategy and could even open the way to establishing a regime that pursues a nationalist policy opposed to such plans.

This development of events and the potential grave imbalance of forces unfavorable to imperialism and its plans has prompted the U.S. command to seek to plug the expected gap in its strategic system in the area.

Recent statements and trends indicate that the U.S. efforts to compensate for the shaky imperialist positions will be intensified and will concentrate on removing all the obstacles to an agreement between As-Sadat's regime and Tel Aviv so that this agreement can become the axis that rallies the forces hostile to the Arab liberation movement.

Saudi Arabia's action of bringing in a U.S. air squadron is considered a provocative step against the feelings of the Arab masses and against the objectives of the struggle by their progressive factions. It is also a matter requiring vigilance and caution on the part of the Arab progressive regimes and forces not only because of the potential immediate dangers represented by the existence of sophisticated U.S. weapons in Saudi Arabia, but also because of what this step signifies in relation to the grave policies of U.S. imperialism and its supporters, policies that are against the unanimous Arab stand, hostile to the Camp David agreements, a stand that was evident in the Baghdad summit resolutions.

While we feel confident about the capabilities of the Arab masses and their progressive regimes and forces and about their ability to thwart their enemies' plans by relying on their own strength and on support from their friends, we find it necessary to affirm that such a victory requires prerequisites, or at least, the most important and decisive of such prerequisites: the unity of the struggle of the Arab progressive forces, particularly those immediately concerned with the developments in the area. On the pan-Arab level such unity should be based on a struggle program and achieved through a comrade and struggle relationship between these forces. It should also be based on the strengthening of co-operation and struggle relations with the allies of our people and nation--the forces of progress and socialism, especially the friendly Soviet Union.

OIL MINISTER MEETS WITH OPEC SECRETARY GENERAL

JN241306 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1135 GMT 24 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 24 January--Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, Revolution Command Council member and oil minister, today received OPEC Secretary General Rene Ortiz. Discussion during the meeting involved the support to be provided to OPEC to strengthen its unity. The OPEC secretary general's visit to Iraq, which began yesterday, stems from his assuming his new responsibilities and is to permit him to get acquainted with Iraqi oil industry achievements.

MOROCCAN PARTY OFFICIALS LEAVE BAGHDAD AFTER PARTY TALKS

JN241309 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0905 GMT 24 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 24 January--Al-Mahdi al-'Alawi and Muhammad al-Yazaghi, members of the Politburo of the National Union of Popular Forces in Morocco, left Baghdad today at the end of a 4-day visit to Iraq.

Al-'Alawi stated that they discussed with Michel 'Aflaq, the secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, ways to support the unionist step between Iraq and Syria represented by the Joint National Action Charter because this step concerns the entire Arab nation. Al-'Alawi added that they also held talks with officials of the Ba'th Party National Command on the situation in the Arab east and west.

RCC MEMBER 'AZIZ DISCUSSES IRAQI-SYRIAN UNIONIST STEPS

JN191305 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1240 GMT 19 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Damascus, 19 January--Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command member Tariq 'Aziz has declared that the committees stemming from the Joint National Action Charter have completed all the tasks entrusted to them for this period.

In statements published here today, 'Aziz said that what is required from Iraq and Syria is to achieve unity and the goals that they deeply and comprehensively believe in, and to fulfill the aspirations of the Arab nation for a better future on the path of freedom and the building of socialism.

'Aziz expressed confidence that this unity will create vast prospects for the victorious struggle on the path of unity, freedom and socialism, as well as on the path of liberating the occupied Arab areas and the regaining of the usurped rights of the Arab people.

'Aziz added: The work of the committees was a preparatory one on the path of unity between the two fraternal countries in every sense of the word. The work of some committees is restricted to the bilateral unionist relationship between the two countries, while the work of other committees is closely linked with the pan-Arab battle against the imperialist-Zionist enemy.

'Aziz added: There are priorities in the unionist action. These priorities are in defense, information and foreign policy. We have fully concentrated on these fields. However, we should not overlook the joint economic planning agreed on during the meeting of the Economic Committee in Damascus recently, as well as the important meetings held among the popular organizations in the two countries. These are the main fields for unionist action and the pillars upon which the unity between the two countries will be established.

'Aziz expalined that unity is not a numerical addition of the manpower, material and cultural resources of the two countries, but it will lead to qualitative and very significant results regarding the balance of power between the Arab nation and its enemies.

'Aziz asserted that this unity will strengthen the pan-Arab progressive unionist trend in the Arab world in the aftermath of many years in which many people thought that the regional, isolationist and reactionary trends and ideas would prevail.

'Aziz emphasized that this unity has been established to serve as the solid base for steadfastness and the confrontation of the big plot implemented by As-Sadat's regime, imperialism and Zionism.

SOVIET OFFICIAL IVANOV ENDS VISIT 20 JAN

JN201748 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1715 GMT 20 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 20 January--Serafim Ivanov, under secretary of the USSR Ministry of Irrigation [title as received], and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad today at the end of a 2-week official visit to Iraq.

While in Iraq, Ivanov attended the meetings of the Irrigation Committee that stemmed from the permanent Iraqi-Soviet Committee for Technical and Economic Cooperation. He also visited several irrigation projects that are being implemented by the Soviet Union.

PAPER COMMENTS ON AL-AHRAM ARTICLE ON JORDAN'S STAND

JN241153 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Jan 79 pp 1, 12 JN

[Editorial: What Does Egypt Want?]

[Excerpts] Following President as-Sadat's interview with TIME magazine on Monday, AL-AHRAM today continued the attack on Jordan's pan-Arab positions. When President as-Sadat undertook his initiative, he imagined that Jordan and certain other countries were in his "small pocket" and that the Arab world was not against his "glorious march" aimed at achieving a separate peace. We stress here the term "separate" because the Camp David agreements referred only to a peace between Egypt and Israel at the expense of the Palestinian cause and the occupied Syrian Golan Heights.

President as-Sadat believes that His Majesty King Husayn has misunderstood him all along the line. AL-AHRAM also says that His Majesty King Husayn is living in "another world." We would like to stress to the Egyptian leadership and to its press that the Jordanian leader is honored to have lived the tragedy of the Palestinian people. We want to assert also that Husayn ibn 'Ali sacrificed his throne for the sake of the Palestinian people's rights in their homeland; the founder of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan was killed for championing these rights; and Husayn has struggled and is still struggling to keep these rights as a mainstay along the road of Arab action and to regain the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Under the leadership of King Husayn, Jordan is living in this "other world" of the Palestinian cause. We ask those who are living in a better world to come forward and show their good intentions by advising Israel to stop the massacres of the Palestinian people in their camps in southern Lebanon. Otherwise, let them remain silent before the threat of death menacing the children, women, and old people in the refugee camps and towns in southern Lebanon.

KING HUSAYN SENDS CONDOLENCES TO 'ARAFAT

JN241332 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1325 GMT 24 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Amman, 24 January--His Majesty King Husayn has sent the following cable of condolences to Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, on the assassination of martyr 'Ali Hasan Salamah: With great regret I have learned of the treacherous event that led to the martyrdom of the late militant 'Ali Hasan Salamah and his aides. On this sad occasion allow me to extend to you our sincere feelings and condolences, praying to the almighty to let the martyr's soul rest in peace and to help us in achieving victory for our nation.

3-YEAR TRADE AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH DPRK 24 JAN

JN241547 Amman JNA in Arabic 1530 GMT 24 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Amman, 24 January--The Jordanian and Democratic Korean governments signed here today a trade agreement for 3 years to be renewed automatically. The agreement provides for promoting trade, encouraging the exchange of national commodities and participating in industrial exhibitions. The agreement also includes facilitating the passage of goods in transit and forming a joint committee to meet periodically in both capitals to deal with difficulties that might arise in the implementation of the agreement and to propose ways of solving them. The agreement was signed for the Jordanian Government by Dr Hashim ad-Dabbas, under secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, and for the DPRK by (Ho Yung), deputy minister of foreign trade.

TUWAYNI LODGES PROTEST WITH UN OVER SHELLING IN SOUTH

NC241245 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Jan 78 NC

[Text] It is known that Ghassan Tuwayni, Lebanon's permanent representative to the United Nations, yesterday submitted protest notes to the president of the UN Security Council and to the UN secretary general. In his notes, Tuwayni deals with the shelling, destruction and killing that are taking place in the south, adding that these aggressive actions constituted a blatant violation of international law and the UN Charter and are aimed at obstructing the deployment of the UNIFIL troops in the south.

Tuwayni linked these events to what he had said during the Security Council debate on extending the UNIFIL mandate. He reiterated that the Lebanese Government reserves the right to call for a meeting of the UN Security Council.

Tuwayni said that the reactions we are presently experiencing confirm the Lebanese view. They also confirm what we have repeatedly said about the situation in Lebanon:

It holds the seeds of an explosion in the entire Middle East. He said we are dealing with this issue from this standpoint.

CABINET DISCUSSES SITUATION IN SOUTH ADOPTS DECISIONS

NC241751 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Jan 79 NC

[Exceprts] The Cabinet has studied subjects on its agenda and has adopted the appropriate decisions on them. After the meeting, Minister Shu-aytu said that all aspects of the grave situation in the south were discussed at the Cabinet session and at meetings that took place before the session. Minister Shu'aytu was asked whether Lebanon had submitted a complaint to the Security Council. He said: This has not been decided yet, but I believe it is being considered. So far Lebanon has submitted a protest. My personal view is that this protest will not be sufficient if the attacks continue.

Radio Reports Calm

NC242020 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Jan 79 NC

[Text] According to reports from southern Lebanon, the exchange of artillery fire in the area has ceased since noon today. Earlier, a number of shells fell on An-Nabatiyah at about 1000 today. This improvement in the situation in southern Lebanon was the result of contacts the government held and after the ambassadors of the big powers were informed of the Lebanese Government's fears and anxiety regarding the dimensions of what is taking place in the south.

VOL: Sporadic Fighting

NC250638 Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 25 Jan 79 NC

[Text] In the security domain, relative calm reigned on all the traditional combat lines in the southern outskirts and the center of the capital. However, sporadic firing was heard after midnight last night. It has been reported that a group of the Palestinians broke into a number of houses in the Verdun area of Western Beirut. This group arrested some persons on the charge of being involved in the assassination of Abu Hasan and four of his aides.

DAMASCUS PAPER COMMENTS ON U.S. POSITION ON IRAN

JN241144 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0825 GMT 24 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Damascus, 24 January--Under the headline "Washington and the Game of the Trump Card," TISHRIN says in an editorial today that Washington has discovered that any attempt against the sweeping popular upsurge of the Iranian revolution is useless, and that it has been betting on the wrong horse.

The paper adds that Washington neglected a crucial fact: Exiled Iranian opposition leader Khomeyni has proved to be the man of the street who controls the key to the solution of the Iranian problem.

The United States began recognizing this fact in the wake of the Guadeloupe summit conference, held last month. Washington began preparing to sneak back through the window after it was thrown out the door. Allusions were made that if the Bakhtiar government, the Iranian army generals, and Khomeyni could not reach agreement among themselves, then the generals would carry out a military coup and take control of the government. By alluding to such a solution, Washington's aim is to appear to go along with the Iranian revolution, while hoping it can divert it from its true national course and thus play the trump card to serve U.S. interests.

Washington believes that by using this formula, the army, which was formed under the shah, might have sufficient and effective political weight to counter the political weight of the opposition. In using this formula, Washington wishes to preserve its influence in Iran and exploit the new situation according to its strategy, within the international power struggle context.

TISHRIN stresses that any solution or formula that the United States will propose will most certainly not be in the service of the Iranian people's national interests but will aim primarily at having Iran resume the role it played under the shah.

TISHRIN concludes that the Iranian revolution under its leader, Khomeyni, will remain loyal to its national principles and objectives of liberating Iran from all foreign control and building a strong and independent state on national bases. This is what the leaders of the Iranian revolution have been reiterating in their various statements.

ALGERIA

FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES TO CHAIR GENEVA DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

LD241542 Algiers APS in French 1300 GMT 24 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Algiers--Abdelaziz Bouteflika, member of the Council of the Revolution and foreign minister, this morning left Algiers on his way to Geneva to chair today's opening session of the UN Disarmament Committee.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI COMMENTS ON KURDS, ERITREA, SAHARA

LD241423 Paris LE MONDE in French 21-22 Jan 79 p 3 LD

[Unattributed report: "The Kurds Constitute a Nation Which Has Been Partitioned"]

[Text] The Kurds constitute a nation which has been partitioned among surrounding countries, Libyan head of state Colonel Al-Qadhdhafi stated on 18 January.

Asked about the rise of nationalism in the Arab world during an interview broadcast by Radio France Internationale, he said that you "could talk about nationalism with reference to Kurds in the same way you could talk about nationalism in Ireland."

"However," the Libyan president emphasized, "minorities which do not belong to a nation--like the Circassians in the Arab East--must be willing to exercise their duties and rights within the framework of the nation to which they belong even though they are not of Arab origin."

"However," he stated, "this does not apply to the Kurds. They constitute the Kurd nation in the Middle East where they have a geographical position."

The Libyan head of state also referred to his appeals in support of an end to hostilities between the Eritreans and the Ethiopians and came out "against a solution imposed by force."

As far as West Sahara is concerned, Colonel Al-Qadhdhafi condemned the "invasion" of the territory and "the fact that the Saharan people have been treated like a flock of sheep by the Moroccan Royal Army."

JALLUD RECEIVES GUINEA REPUBLIC PRIME MINISTER

LD241828 Tripoli JANA in English 1645 GMT 24 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, January 24, Jamahiriyah News Agency--Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud received today the member of the Political Bureau and prime minister of Guinea who is currently visiting the Jamahiriyah, as a member of the delegation accompanying President Ahmed Sekou Toure.

The meeting was attended by the Guinean ambassador to the Jamahiriyah and a representative from the African Department at the Foreign Secretariat.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives President

LD241830 Tripoli JANA in English 1713 GMT 24 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, January 24, Jamahiriyah News Agency--The leader of the great 1st of September revolution and secretary general of the General People's Congress, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, held a meeting with the Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure this morning.

The meeting was attended by the foreign secretary, Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki and the Guinean foreign minister.

Hosts Dinner

LD241858 Tripoli JANA in English 1405 GMT 24 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 24 Jan, JANA--The leader of the great 1st of September revolution and secretary general of the General People's Congress, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, held a dinner-banquet last night in honour of President Ahmed Sekou Toure of Guinea and his delegation.

The dinner was attended by Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, Brig Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, the head and members of the General People's Committee and heads of diplomatic missions accredited to the Jamahiriyah.

Joint Communique Issued

LD241912 Tripoli JANA in English 1753 GMT 24 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, January 24, Jamahiriyah News Agency--The president of the Republic of Guinea, Ahmed Sekou Toure, left Tripoli this afternoon after ending a two-day visit to the Jamahiriyah.

The Guinean president was seen off officially and publicly, and Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the great 1st of September revolution and secretary-general of the General People's Congress, was at foremost of those bidding him farewell. Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, Brig Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, Lt Col Mustafa al-Kharrubi, Maj Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydis, head and members of the General People's Committee, under secretaries, the Jamahiriyah ambassador accredited to Guinea, the Guinean ambassador and members of the Guinean Embassy in the Jamahiriyah were present.

The following joint communique has been issued after the visit:

At the invitation of Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great 1st of September revolution and secretary general of the General People's Congress, in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, His Excellency Ahmed Sekou Toure, president of the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea visited the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah during the period from 23-25 Safar, 1399 Hijra, corresponding to 22-24 January 1979, at the head of a high-level delegation.

During the visit, the two leaders met and held talks on the bilateral relations between the sisterly countries, and the Islamic, African, Arab and international issues.

On the level of bilateral relations, the two leaders reaffirmed the brotherly and historical ties between the peoples of the two countries and expressed their satisfaction towards the development of these relations in all fields.

They also affirmed their adherence to work for achieving further cooperative relations between them to set an example to be followed as well as a true expression of mutual confidence between the two leaders and peoples.

On the Islamic level, the two leaders reaffirmed their determination to support all Islamic causes, to stand by Islamic nations who are struggling against exploitation and oppression and to construct a society in which justice and equality prevail as preached by holy Islam.

In this respect, they affirmed the continuation of their support for Muslims in the world.

On the African level, the two leaders note that the continent is facing an imperialist, racist onslaught again, and they affirmed their determination to continue struggle until the whole African continent is liberated from the forces of evil, racism and imperialism.

In this framework, the two leaders expressed their condemnation of the policy of the imperialist forces which aim at reintroducing their direct supremacy on the African continent. They called for the necessity of evacuation of imperialist forces from the continent and the liquidation of imperialist bases there.

The two leaders also affirmed the importance of liberating African peoples from influence, monopolies and oppressive racism. They believe that armed struggle against imperialism and racism is the only way to freedom of African peoples, therefore they decided to continue supporting and consolidating all African liberation movements whether those that are against racist, settling imperialism in the sourthern part of the continent or those that are still struggling against the supremacy of foreign forces. In this respect, the two sides affirm their total and firm support for the right of the peoples who are struggling for self-determination against imperialism and racist regimes.

Upon reviewing the provocations of the racist forces against the neighbouring African countries of the occupied regions in the south of the continent, they affirmed their absolute support for the stand of these countries. They also decided to support them for steadfastness against the violations they face on their lands. They also praise, on this occasion, the heroic stand of each of the republics of Angola and Mozambique.

On the Arab level, the two leaders praised the efforts being made by the Arab and African communities to promote cultural and economic progress, thus thwarting imperialism.

They stressed that the concern of the Arab-African unity was to work towards the fulfillment of economic and political freedom for all the Arab and African peoples. This will benefit all the peoples of the Third World because it is based on linkage between the two communities, historically, geographically, and through their civilizations.

The two leaders condemned any effort aimed at excluding the Palestinian people from dealing with their own cause. The two sides also asserted their determination to support and reinforce the Palestinian people to restore their own land and all their rights.

On the international level, the two leaders affirmed their adherence to the principles of the United Nations, the resolutions and recommendations of the Islamic conference, and the conferences of the non-aligned countries. They call for the need to amend the Charter of the United Nations to bring about justice and equality among all countries.

They also call for the need for a new international economic system which recognizes the rights of the Third World countries on the basis of justice and equality.

At the end of the visit, the Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure expressed his appreciation of the great 1st of September revolution which aims at providing prosperity and setting up social justice in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

President Sekou Toure directed an official invitation to Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the great 1st of September revolution and secretary-general of the General People's Congress, to visit the revolutionary People's Republic of Guinea. The invitation was accepted but its date will be decided later.

Issued on Tripoli on 25 Safar, 1399 Hijra, corresponding to 24 January, 1979.

MOROCCO

AFP: SOURCES SAY SHAH PLANS TO STAY IN MOROCCO

TA242035 Paris AFP in English 2021 GMT 24 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Marrakech, Morocco, 24 Jan (AFP)--Iranian Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, who arrived here on Monday after leaving his strife-torn country eight days ago, plans provisionally to stay in Morocco, sources close to the shah said today.

It was likely that he would go to Rabat and that Empress Farah Diba, accompanied by the wife of the Iranian ambassador in Morocco Mrs Farhad Sepahbody, may soon go to the Moroccan capital to examine the possibilities of staying there.

Sources in the shah's entourage pointed out that the decision provisionally to stay in Morocco--should it materialize--would not exclude visits to other countries, for example Egypt or Saudi Arabia.

Sources said that it was probable that the shah's three youngest children and his mother-in-law would come to Morocco next week while his eldest son, the crown prince, would remain for the time being in the U.S.

Meanwhile, the shah, who it was reported has lost 12 kilow (nearly 27 lbs) in weight during the recent crisis and whose morale was said to have been seriously affected by what he saw as the "treason" of many of the people he had considered sure and loyal to him, today appeared relaxed and smiling with his wife to pose for about six minutes for press photographers here. The Moroccan authorities had given permission for the press to meet the shah only on condition that the Iranian sovereign was not asked to answer any questions.

GOVERNMENT CRITICIZES SALECK'S WESTERN SAHARA STAND

PA241307 Paris AFP in English 1234 GMT 24 Jan 79 PA

[Excerpts] Madrid, Jan 24 (AFP)--A Moroccan minister today criticized Mauritanian head of state Mustapha Ould Mohammed Saleck for going too far in his search for peace in the Western Sahara, which Morocco and Mauritania partitioned under agreement with Spain in 1975.

Moroccan Information Minister [of State] Abdelhadi Boutaleb, in an interview in the Spanish daily newspaper EL PAIS, said Col Saleck had also gone too far in his negotiations with the POLISARIO Front, the Saharan liberation movement.

The minister said, however, that all Col Saleck's efforts were doomed to failure because the Algerians will not allow the POLISARIO Front the chance of replying freely to the Mauritanians.

Immediately after the coup [ousting Moktar Ould Daddah] then Moroccan Information Minister Mohamed Khattabi said Rabat hoped the new military authorities in Nouakchott did not intend to end the military alliance with Morocco.

He warned that should the current turmoil lead to the replacement of Morocco's contingent of 8,000 to 9,000 men stationed in Mauritania by troops of a neighbouring country such as Algeria, there would be great risk of conflict. (?He) added: Morocco could never allow Algeria to use Mauritania to encircle it.

MAP REPORTS INCREASED COOPERATION WITH MAURITANIA

LD242016 Rabat MAP in English 1215 GMT 24 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Rabat, Jan 24 (MAP)--The visits that the two Moroccan official delegations recently paid to Mauritania, show the two countries' desire to create a fellowship between the two peoples.

Karim Lamrani and Taib Benecheikh, president and vice president of the Moroccan-Mauritanian Cooperation Agency (AMAMCO) attended in Nouakchott the joint committee meeting that concluded six agreements in the judiciary, commercial, social and economic fields. To enlarge cooperation between the two countries, other decisions were made concerning the building of roads, drilling, mineral prospecting, assistance to Mauritanian companies, rural development, national education, and technical assistance.

On the other hand, M'hammed Boucetta, the Moroccan foreign affairs minister, and Mansouri Benali, the Moroccan minister of administrative affairs, went to Mauritania to inaugurate projects realized there by Morocco and to conclude accords previously elaborated by the joint committee. They, for instance, inaugurated a great mosque, a cultural center, and an airport in Nouakchott. In the educational field, it is worth mentioning that 600 Mauritanian pupils and students are being trained in Morocco and 75 Moroccan teachers are practicing in Mauritania.

SUDAN

PRESIDENT INTERVIEWED BY AL-MUSAWWAR MAGAZINE

NC241630 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 24 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 24 January--Sudanese President Ja' far Numayri has expressed optimism regarding the achievements of the integration between Egypt and Sudan. He added that what has been achieved not only is a solid foundation for the realization of unity between Egypt and the Sudan, but also serves as a model for the Arab and Islamic nations and the African Continent.

In an interview with the weekly AL-MUSAWWAR, the Sudanese president said that full Sudanese-Egyptian cooperation is an established fact in spite of remarks made by skeptics to the contrary.

The Sudanese president added: We are working in a unison stemming from the same experiment and the same basis. President Numayri affirmed that President Anwar as-Sadat's efforts for the realization of peace in the Middle East are on the right path and will turn the Arab nation into a strong and unified force which will win all its firm rights.

The Sudanese president said that President as-Sadat's efforts aim at realizing the victory which the Arab nation has sought by means of military operations during the past 30 years. The Sudanese president added: I can see victory through the efforts of my brother President as-Sadat in the very near future, sooner than we would have imagined.

In his interview with AL-MUSAWWAR, the Sudanese president said that Sudan is striving to unify the Arab nation by removing the prevailing differences and their causes. It is also seeking to solve the fateful issue of realizing the Palestinian peoples' aims. The Sudanese president affirmed that President Anwar as-Sadat has made the right start along this path amid changing and suitable circumstances on the international level.

President Numayri explained that the position of Arab Sudan is clear and firm and will not be affected or shaken by what is being said repeatedly by tendentious media which are trying to cast doubts on the role of Arab Sudan.

VICE PRESIDENT RECEIVES EGYPTIAN OPPOSITION LEADER

NC241651 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1526 GMT 24 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Khartoum, 24 January--Sudanese Vice President and Foreign Minister Ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr today received the leader of the Egyptian Socialist Labor Party and the Egyptian opposition, Engineer Ibrahim Shukri.

The meeting, which was also attended by the chairman of the party's Foreign Relations and Arab Affairs Committee, Layla Takla, discussed the situation in the Middle East, Africa and Iran, as well as the scientific bases which must be adopted in the integration between Egypt and Sudan.

Engineer Ibrahim Shukri briefed Ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr on the Labor Party's position on the Israeli-Arab conflict, and said that this position is based on attaining a peace based on adherence to full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and on affirming the Palestinian people's rights, represented by the establishment of their independent state.

The Egyptian opposition leader pointed out that the Egyptian-Sudanese integration experiment is considered by the party to be the path to the formation of the Arab United States. The Egyptian opposition leader added that Egyptian-Sudanese unity is the nucleus of this great goal.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL MEETS ERITREAN LEADERS

LD242213 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Jan 79 LD/EA

[Text] Dr Hassan 'Abdallah at-Turabi, assistant secretary general for information and foreign affairs, received in his office at noon today Ahmad Nasir, chairman of the Eritrean Liberation Front Executive Council, and (Abdullahi Dawban), the official responsible for the front's foreign affairs, with whom he discussed current Eritrean developments and the stage through which they are passing at present. During the meeting, his excellency also reviewed the Sudan's efforts to find a just solution to the Eritrean problem.

TUNISIA

GUINEA'S PRESIDENT TOURE MEETS WITH NOUIRA

LD250001 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Hedi Noura, prime minister and secretary general of the party, held a working session this evening at Government House with President of Guinea Ahmed Sekou Toure. The session was attended on the Tunisian side by: Habib Bourguiba, Jr, adviser to the president; Foreign Minister Mohamed Fitouri; National Education Minister Mohamed Mzali; Mustapha Zaanouni, minister-delegate attached to prime minister's office in charge of the plan; Trade Minister Slaheddine Mbarek; Cultural Affairs Minister Mohamed Yawali; and Othman Kechrid, minister in charge of relations with the National Asssmbly and Government Secretariat General. On the Guinean side: Prime Minister Lansana Beavogui; Minister of Culture and Education Mamady Keita; Foreign Minister Fily Sissoko; Planning and Economic Cooperation Minister N'faly Sangare; Foreign Commerce Minister Saikou Barry; Minister of Islamic Affairs (?Soriba Camara); and Ali Bangoura, deputy director general of the Guinea Bauxite Company and director of protocol.

The two delegations concluded their talks at 1800. During the talks they reviewed current political problems in Africa and the world. They also discussed the possibility of strengthening Tunisian-Guinean cooperation.

Nouira, Toure Dinner Speeches

LD251110 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 25 Jan 79 LD

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Hedi Nouira last night gave a dinner in honor of President Ahmed Sekou Toure. It was attended by Dr Sadok Mokaddem, speaker of the National Assembly, and a number of ministers, Political Bureau members, public figures, members of the Guinean delegation accompanying the Guinean president, and members of the diplomatic corps accredited in Tunis.

Hedi Nouira and President Sekou Toure exchanged speeches. The prime minister expressed his pleasure and joy in welcoming the Guinean guest and the accompanying delegation in Tunisia once again. He praised the role played by President Sekou Toure and the Guinea group in liquidating colonialism and in bolstering the long march of African unity. He pointed out that most of the liberated African Continent has become responsible for its own destiny and it can consider itself stronger than before to accomplish the liquidation of colonialism and to continue with clarity and firmness its striving for economic and social progress, that is everything that [word indistinct] aspire for.

Hedi Nouira said: While this is our aim, on which we are banking at present, we must follow a strict moral code based on political boldness and honest respect for the choices of every nation belonging to the African community. The prime minister said: We cannot abandon our duty of supporting the struggles being waged by the peoples of southern Africa and the people of Palestine, especially as the means of repression directed against them from day to day increasingly resemble regional solutions which seek to push a number of regions in Africa and the Arab world into a whirlpool of instability and devastation, spreading out and widening its scope.

Hedi Nouira said: The destruction of colonialism in its last outposts is not only to insure international security and progress but is also a fundamental condition for the security of our regions and their growth. He said: As a result of the coalescence of the African Continent and the Arab World, the vast majority of nations support this momentous and just cause. We must maintain this coalition and this effective solidarity and we must work to increase support for them without accepting any truce until recognition of the legitimate rights of the peoples of Namibia, Zimbabwe, Azania and the rights of the Palestinian people who have been struggling for 30 years.

Hedi Nouira continued: The UN resolutions form the foundation for peaceful, negotiated solutions to these disputes. Tunisia stands by the need to respect international legality and it is certain that the application of the UN resolutions to the letter is alone the guarantee to putting an end to the destructive wars in our region, which destroy our youth, retard our growth and obstruct the progress of our peoples. Without doubt the contradictions which prevail in our continent and occasionally lead to disputes among African countries are in the majority (?injustices) committed by the past colonial system, and yet the conflicts among ourselves are the ones that pave the way for foreign intervention. Without doubt the escalation of military assaults in the heart of the Third World constitutes a direct threat to the necessary stability for its progress. Africa shoulders heavy burdens as a result of this new policy which depends on resorting to military force, which leads in turn to an increase in the resources allocated for defensive needs and the spread of the infection of intense armament without acceptable justification and an increase in military alliances. All this represents a setback to the policy of African cooperation and solidarity and a weakening of the sense of independence and the desire for nonalinement.

Hedi Nouira went on to say: The African Continent needs security and peace in order to create the conditions for its development and to extend control over its own resources and its means of technical and cultural advancement. He stressed that cooperation among countries marching along the path of development is considered a cornerstone for success in the midst of a world system distinguished by imbalances and inequality in the distribution of wealth. Hedi Nouira said: Tunisia considers itself basically qualified to help tie together the links of rapprochement and (?integration), especially among the African and Arab countries. He said: The need to protect our resources, defend our sovereignty and strengthen our ability to negotiate should urge us to extend the scope of our exchanges and to establish a system of cooperation which would include many spheres and which would help in lessening the subservience of our economy and strengthening its immunity. Tunisia deeply believes in this form of beneficial cooperation for all without exception.

President Sekou Toure then spoke. He expressed profound gratitude to the Tunisian Government for the warm fraternal welcome it gave him. He said: This visit aims to express to the fraternal Tunisian people and their government and to the peoples of Africa and the world the nature of our feelings for the great African leader who had the historic distinction of opening a gap in the colonial system by liberating the Tunisian people and of making an invaluable contribution to the liberation of many other African peoples, including the Guinean people.

Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure, after speaking about the fixed choices of the peoples and the development requirements of the society regardless of race, (?systems of government), the choice of precise democratic rules, the time factor, [word indistinct] the cadres controlling the nation and the political aims of the people, stressed the need to unite ranks and to assess resources in order to exploit them gradually, and considered this the path of dignity and collective responsibility. He stressed that if the African states today agree on such a view regardless of privileges or personal choices, an important part of Africa's problems will find a sensible solution.

The Guinean guest also noted that at the outset every people is considered free and sovereign and responsible for its own fate, every people should organize itself as it wishes and organize its component groups as it wishes, for everyone should be free to choose his own system. And the diversification of systems must not be considered a source of conflicts and contradictions, but an expression of the freedom of peoples and freedom of choice. This does not prevent the establishment of relations of honest cooperation among states, for every people has its deep-rooted traditions and its values which it cannot abandon for other choices. He stressed that differences in means does not mean differences in aims, because the aim of every action and effort is to make the group and the individual happy.

We acknowledge that the struggle waged by the Tunisian Destourian Party before the rest of the colonies were able to achieve independence [words indistinct] courage, steadfastness and sacrifice. Tunisia opened the door, and later it was followed by a number of other peoples, and the Tunisian state was able to preserve its independence and organize the economic, social and cultural activities of the Tunisian people.

President Sekou Toure expressed the urgent need for the African countries to develop their cooperation and to bolster the foundations of [word indistinct] on which the African family is founded and pointed out the need to consider the diversification of regimes an element of [words indistinct].

WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO CLAIMS 195 MOROCCAN SOLDIERS KILLED

TA231009 Paris AFP in English 0950 GMT 23 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Algiers, Jan 23 (AFP)--The Saharan liberation movement POLISARIO said today Moroccan forces lost 195 soldiers in POLISARIO operations in south Morocco and the Western Sahara between Jan 12 and 19.

A POLISARIO communique said 46 Moroccan soldiers had joined POLISARIO ranks.

POLISARIO has been waging a guerrilla war against Morocco and Mauritania since they partitioned the former Spanish Sahara under agreement with Madrid in 1975.

The Saharan movement declared a unilateral ceasefire against Mauritania last July shortly after a coup d'etat ousted President Moktar Ould Daddah.

ATHERTON MEETING ENDS, PROGRESS DISCUSSED

TA241850 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 24 Jan 79 TA

[Text] We will now go over to our political correspondent. The meeting in the prime minister's office has ended. Shalom Qital, over to you:

Alfred Atherton and Dr Eliyahu Ben-Elisar were kind enough to wait for us so as to be on our live broadcast. Mr Ambassador, have you finished the talks with the Israeli team? [sentence in English]

[Atherton--in English] We have concluded this round of talks with the Israeli team and my colleagues and I will be leaving later this evening for Cairo for our talks there. As I said when I arrived in the area for my visits, both here and to Egypt, my purpose was to seek to resolve the remaining issues relating to the treaty text--and I might say just a few words about where those efforts stand. With respect to Article IV of the treaty and Article VI, paragraph 2, of the treaty, we will be conveying the views which we have heard from the Government of Israel to the Government of Egypt and will be hearing, of course, the views of the Egyptian Government. The issue with respect to Article VI, Paragraph 5 of the treaty, on which we have spent a great deal of time, involves trying to respond to some of the questions which the Government of Israel has put to us with regard to our legal memorandum on that paragraph. I want to emphasize that what we were seeking to do is to reach an understanding between us--between our delegations--with respect to these issues, which we would then refer to our governments for approval. In other words, a referendum. I think that pretty well summarizes the status of where we are at the present time. There are...we have succeeded in resolving most of the points with regard to this issue that I have just been discussing. But we have not resolved them all, and it is therefore my present intention to return here from Cairo to continue our talks. Thank you very much.

[Qital translates the above into Hebrew and continues by asking:] Dr Eliyahu Ben Elisar, what can you tell us about the talks that have just ended?

[Ben-Elisar] We indeed held very long, serious talks that touched on several articles --substantive articles--of the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt, and we achieved appreciable progress on several issues that had been problematical both in regard to Article IV and in regard to Article VI, Paragraph 5, in the relations between Israel and the United States. Throughout the talks, there was an atmosphere of efforts to find solutions. Of course, we are very happy about the return of Atherton and his delegation to Israel. The date for his return has not yet been set, but he will be welcomed here.

[Elimalekh Ram] Dr Ben-Elisar, in regard to the other issues, which were either not discussed or for which no reasonable solution has yet been found, do you think that the time has come to try to solve them at a higher level, a political level?

[Ben-Elisar] No, not at this stage. I don't think that at the moment it is up to me to answer that question. It depends on the Cabinet's decision, and certainly on a ministerial decision.

[Ram] What do you expect Ambassador Atherton will bring with him when he returns from Cairo?

[Ben-Elisar] We will be patient for a few days and see.

[Qital] You speak about Article VI, Paragraph 5--the one dealing with the priority of the Israeli-Egypitan peace treaty over Egypt's agreements with the Arab world. There was a U.S. interpretation, which did not suit Israel, and this was discussed--so Dr Atherton announced--for many hours, many days. Does the U.S. interpretation remain as it was? Is there a new letter? What is the situation regarding this article?

[Ben-Elisar] Atherton told us that that interpretation, from the viewpoint of the United States, remains as it is; the United States has not changed its interpretation.

[Qital] What about Article IV?

[Ben-Elisar] This, of course, has been one of the most difficult problems form our viewpoint. I hope that we have crystallized a formulation which may--if the Cabinet considers, thinks and decides in this way--permit us to accept...

[Qital] A new letter of interpretation?

[Ben-Elisar] Without going into detail.

[Qital] Regarding Article IV--the review of the security arrangements in Sinai--is there agreement between Israel and the United States?

[Ben-Elisar] Agreement was achieved on the important majority.

[Qital] Dr Ben-Elisar, we thank you very much. Now, back to the studio.

BEGIN: AS-SADAT'S ADVISERS UNDERMINING NEGOTIATIONS

TA241627 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 24 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin said today that it is currently impossible to estimate when the negotiations with Egypt will end.

In a meeting with Agudat Yisra'el Knesset members, the prime minister claimed that President as-Sadat is indeed interested in signing a peace treaty soon, and that he is not interested in its minute details. However, the Egyptian president's advisers are the ones insisting on the details, and thus are undermining the negotiations.

FORMER PRESIDENT FORD LEAVES AFTER 4-DAY VISIT

TA240941 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 24 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Gerald Ford left Israel a short time ago after a 4-day visit. At Ben-Gurion Airport, the former president said that he and his wife hope to return someday.

The Knesset chairman, the U.S. ambassador and senior officials of the U.S. Embassy bade him farewell in a short and unpretentious ceremony.

ISRAEL COMPLAINS TO UN ABOUT TERRORIST SHELLING

TA250558 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Israel complained to the UN Security Council last night about the terrorists' shelling of civilian targets in Israel from Lebanese territory. In his complaint, Israel's Ambassador Yehuda Blum gave details of last week's incidents, for which the PLO had taken responsibility. In these circumstances, the complaint says, the IDF was forced to return fire in the terrorists' bases and concentrations in Lebanese territory. Blum said that villages in southern Lebanon have also been under fire by the same terrorists.

OLYMPIC COMMITTEE WITHDRAWS SPORTS BAN ON SOUTH AFRICA

TA241009 Jerusalem POST in English 24 Jan 79 p 1 TA

[Excerpt] Tel Aviv--A stormy meeting of the 25-member plenary of the Israel Olympic Committee (IOC) last night rejected the statement made on Sunday night on behalf of the IOC presidium, breaking off all sports links with South Africa.

Government sports authority Director Yariv Oren was present at last night's gathering. IOC Vice-Chairman Hayim Wein told the Jerusalem POST's Jack Leon that the plenary has decided to continue relations with South Africa, as before, acting only within the rules laid down by all international sports federations regarding competition with the republic.

Wein, who was chairman or the last three Maccabiah Games, said that he and other members of the plenary were shocked by Sunday's announcement, before which they said they were not consulted.

MINISTER TAMIR PROTESTS ARAB VILLAGE DECISION

TA241540 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Minister of Justice Shmu'el Tamir has complained to the Cabinet about the decision by the ministerial committee not to allow the inhabitants of Iqrit and Kefam Bar'am to return to their villages. Tahir reported to the Democratic Movement's Knesset faction that the Cabinet had decided to freeze the issue, but that he had nevertheless asked the prime minister to hold a discussion in the near future because the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee intends to discuss the matter.

PRIME MINISTER'S ARAB AFFAIRS ADVISER WILL SOON RESIGN

TA251126 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 25 Jan 79 p 1 TA

[Text] The prime minister's adviser for Arab affairs, Dr Moshe Sharon, will soon resign from office and return to his job at Hebrew University as senior lecturer in Islamic history.

The expected resignation comes against the background of his criticism of a lack of consolidated policy on the Arab issue.

The prime minister has asked Dr Sharon to postpone his resignation until after exhaustive clarifications are held with him on the issue of the Arab population.

It appears that Dr Sharon's decision to resign from office is final even though he is prepared to postpone his resignation until after talking with the prime minister.

GOVERNMENT EXPLAINS TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF AIRPORT

LD241756 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Jan 79 LD

[Text] A government spokesman this afternoon announced: The account carried by today's evening papers about Mehrabad Airport and its closure has given rise to misunderstanding among some of the great eminences, the ayatollahs, because the incident was not described. A number of people had wanted to organize flights on their own, which, of course, could not be agreed to by the government. Other people wanted to attack the airport and damage its installations. These installations are public property and it is the government's duty to prevent their damage and destruction.

In view of this situation, the government was forced to close down the airport temporarily, for a period of 2 hours and 40 minutes, in order to establish order. After this period the airport was reopened and its normal work resumed.

The government spokesman emphasized that in principle the government has the right, whenever it deems fit, to close any airport; today this step was taken to protect the public's interest.

TEHRAN GOVERNOR DECLARES ALL AIRPORTS CLOSED FOR 3 DAYS

LD242115 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 24 Jan 79 LD

[Communique No 33 of the military governorate of Tehran and district]

[Text] Because of the nationwide strike by the flight control staff of the Civil Aviation Department and the stopping of flights by certain companies, such as Lufthansa and Air France, pending the equipping [as heard] of the country's airports, all the country's airports will be declared closed for a period of 3 days effective at 2400, midnight, on Wednesday, 24 January 1979.

[Signed] The military governor of Tehran and district, Lt Gen Mehdi Rahimi.

INTELLIGENCE REPORTEDLY UNCOVERS PLOT AGAINST KHOMEYNI

TA241559 Paris AFP in English 1556 GMT 24 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Tehran, 24 Jan (AFP)--Iranian intelligence services have uncovered a terrorist plot to assassinate Shi'ite Muslim leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni when he returns here on Friday, reliable sources said today. The sources said the plot had been engineered by "specially trained foreign agents who have already infiltrated Iran."

The government of Premier Shahpur Bakhtiar was said to be very concerned about the safety of the powerful opposition leader.

More than 5,000 plainclothesmen and an impressive security task force made up of army, police and gendarmerie units backed up by specially equipped helicopters were to be mobilized for the protection of Ayatollah Khomeyni when he arrives from his exile home near Paris.

The sources said concern for the ayatollah's safety has prompted authorities to close down Tehran airport, barring an Iran Air Boeing 747 from taking off this morning to bring the ayatollah and his party back home.

Authorities were said to have feared that the plane, which was to have taken off in "abnormal" security conditions, might be sabotaged by hostile agents.

AFP SAYS KHOMEYNI TO DELAY PLANNED RETURN

TA251044 Paris AFP in English 1043 GMT 25 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Neauphle-le-Chateau, Jan 25 (AFP)--Exiled Muslim leader Ayatollah Khomeyni has delayed his planned return to Iran until Sunday, one of his spokesmen announced here today.

The ayatollah had intended returning to Iran from France tonight after 15 years of exile, but the closure of all Iranian airports announced in Tehran yesterday hampered his flight arrangements.

Dr Seyfoddin Nabavi, the ayatollah's doctor and spokesman, told a press conference here today that he had suggested that the religious leader should rest for four or five days in view of the heavy program he would face when he got back to Iran.

"The ayatollah's health is excellent," he added, "but everyone needs to take a few days rest between periods of intense activity."

Dr Ebrahim Yazdi, one of the ayatollah's close aides, said that the return to Iran had been delayed by the closure of Tehran airport by the Iranian Army.

He said that if the airport was still closed on Sunday, Ayatollah Khomeyni would postpone his return until the airport was opened.

Dr Yazdi said that Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhtiar would not succeed in keeping the ayatollah out of the country for long.

BAKHTIAR GIVES VIEWS IN TEHRAN RADIO INTERVIEW

LD241410 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Shahpur Bakhtiar today participated in a telephone interview with our colleague, Khodayar Ghiasi, and answered his questions: [begin recording]

[Ghiasi] Your Excellency Mr Prime Minister, in these historic and crucial moments when your voice is being heard by the Iranian nation and most countries of the world, I would like to inquire about your specific views on various issues, particularly in light of the part played by His Great Eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni, as well as on what arrangements have been made or about contacts made with him by your government.

[Bakhtiar] For some time now I have been directly or indirectly--mostly indirectly--in contact with him through envoys sent by me or in contact on his initiative and have learned about his views. The major part of what he demands--that revolutionary changes should take place in the country, such as freedoms, social security, release of political prisoners and freedom of expression--and what the nationalists, or as the Europeans call it, the opposition, led by His Eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni, have in mind, I believe I have accomplished without much bloodshed or tension. Other aspects of the program I will implement will be along these lines and within the framework of his principles.

[Ghiasi] Two bills were presented to the Majlis today. Please explain something about these two bills.

[Bakhtiar] As I stated in the government's program, following the release of political prisoners--which has been accomplished--two bills headed the list of proposed legislation. One concerns the abolition of SAVAK and replacing it with an intelligence bureau to look only after the country's domestic and external security. Foreigners call this a counter-espionage bureau. Securing the country's independence must be at the top of our list of priorities. We should possess intelligence about certain things. There is no government in the world without political police. However, certain executive sections and interference in people's affairs and all those things which caused hardship, discontent and problems over the years will be totally abolished, and all the assets and other things belonging to SAVAK will be transferred to the office of the prime minister, which will assign the responbility to various departments competent to handle it.

[Ghiasi] And about the second bill...

[Bakhtiar] The second bill concerns the punishment of those responsible for all the misfortunes of the past 25 years, particularly the past 15 years. The bill will apply to ministers, prime minister's deputies, or other responsible individuals, even those who have no government posts and can apply to the civil service court in the usual way, or people who have government posts--the Supreme Court in the presence of a jury. The crux of the matter is that we have introduced the trial by jury system in our judiciary, bringing workers, businessmen, university professors and all those from all walks of life. The bill provides that these people will decide whether someone is guilty or not guilty. If someone is found guilty, his sentence will range from death to 5 years in prison--this is the minimum.

[Ghiasi] Your Excellency Mr Prime Minister, you have said martial law will gradually be abolished in Iran. In light of the fact that the martial law period ends, I think on 8 March...

[Bakhtiar interrupts] I hope to be able to fulfill this promise within this period provided there are not certain types of tension. I am now waiting to see the governor general of Khuzestan, the governor of Tarriz and particularly the governor general of Khorasan--who have been more or less appointed--go to their offices. A week or 10 days after that, at first Khorasan and then perhaps Ahvaz later will be freed from martial law. It might be necessary to retain martial law in Tehran for a while. In that event I will proceed in accordance with the law and present a bill for one provincial city.

[Ghiasi] What happens to those who have been arrested under the martial law act when it is lifted.

[Bakhtiar] If martial law is abolished they will be released. But those you have in mind--that is, those arrested under Article 5--they will be turned over to judiciary courts. The ministers and others involved will go to the courts. That is why I wanted to present this bill before then--that is, the 40 or 42 days left [before the authorized martial law period ends on 8 March].

[Ghiasi] Your Excellency, yesterday and today we witnessed a group of people who staged demonstrations supporting the constitution and the government. Demonstrations are also expected to be held by them at Baharestan Square [in front of the Majlis] tomorrow. I would like to have your views on this as head of the government.

[Bakhtiar] I have never been involved in organizing meetings and demonstrations, even when I was young and in the opposition, as it were. We will always allow the people freedom to express their views peacefully, without arson and without killings. This applies to those in favor of the government and those opposed to it. The people you referred to are free, after informing responsible authorities about their demonstration and where they want to gather, to make speeches. Of course, if during their speeches there is something against the law or contrary to the truth, then the responsible officials will take legal proceedings, under the country's regular laws.

[Ghiasi] Many questions are raised addressed to your government, mostly telephoned to the radio and television. [at this point both the prime minister and Ghiasi speak together]

[Bakhtiar] I have 10 telephone numbers. The people tell me, every one of them: We are with you--but they fear coming out with it. I believe we are on the threshold of the stage when this fear will be completely overcome, and supporters as well as opponents, impartial as well as biased, will be able to express their views. This is my wish--that we will develop tolerance for others. This is something which, God willing, will be done. I have instructed officials not to allow the use of my telephone after 1030 except in an emergency because I receive so many calls telling me: You are right, your remarks are correct, freedom means this and law means this. Well, I thank them.

[Ghiasi] [Words indistinct] Another point has sprung to mind. I hope you would answer my question with a little more detail...[Bakhtiar interrupts, asking Ghiasi what question] because I believe everyone in the Iranian nation awaits your answer. This is related to the envoy sent to Paris on your behalf.

[Bakhtiar] Since the envoy has not reached his destination and I still have no knowledge of the text of the letter [as heard] it would be impolite, as I have explained. I might remind you that nearly 2 years ago, I, along with Mr Sanjabi and Mr Forumar, sent a letter to his majesty. We waited 48 hours before we published it. Now this letter is something I have personally written and addressed to the ayatollah. I cannot divulge any details. At any rate, however, my position is clear with respect to the constitution. I cannot change the constitution except through free elections based on the constitution. Any change required in the constitution has been envisaged in the constitution itself. So this is the position. Now if you have nothing more to ask, I have other things to attend to.

[Ghiasi] Thank you very much.

BAKHTIAR TELLS MAJLIS HE WILL NOT STEP DOWN

LD241436 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jan 79 LD

[Text] The Majlis held an extraordinary open session under Dr Javad Sa'id at 0930 today. At this session, the government submitted to the Majlis a bill on the dissolution of SAVAK as well as a bill on the procedure for the prosecution of ministers and prime ministers and the procedure for the formation of a jury council, with the insertion of one priority item.

Note No 1 of the bill on the dissolution of SAVAK includes the following: The organizations, budgets, credits, documents and properties of SAVAK will be handed over to the prime minister's office so that on the order of the prime minister, the officials of that organization, as deemed necessary, may be employed in other government organizations, or their service ended in accordance with the laws and regulations of that organization.

Section Two of the bill on the procedure for prosecution of ministers and prime ministers and the procedure for the formation of the jury council says: The jury council is composed of the following: six religious leaders, to be selected and nominated by the great religious authorities; five professors from the country's universities, to be nominated by the High Council of Tehran University; four lawyers from the judiciary, to be nominated by the capital's lawyers' association; four writers and journalists, to be nominated by the writers' and journalists' syndicate; four physicians and pharmacists, to be nominated by the medical association; six teachers, to be selected and nominated by the Iran teachers association; two notaries, to be nominated by the notaries association; two merchants and guild members, to be nominated by the Iran Chamber of Industries and Mines; two retired officials, to be nominated by the pensioners association; three bank employees, to be selected by the bank employees syndicate; six workers from the provinces of Khuzestan, Esfahan and Tehran, two from each on the nomination of the respective provincial city council.

The Majlis Public Relations Committee today also outlined the Majlis' position regarding the execution of the grave duty of the deputies at this sensitive (?juncture). The full text of the two bills, and of the statement by the Majlis Public Relations Committee, will be broadcast later in this news bulletin.

At the Majlis open session today, the text of the resignation of 24 minority deputies was read. Daryush Shirvani, the deputy for Tehran, withdrew his resignation from the Majlis. At the Majlis open session today, the deputies from (?Kharg), Dezful, Meshgin Sharh and Reza'iyeh submitted memorandums and questions to the Majlis speaker to be communicated to the government.

The Majlis Employment Committee also announced that next Sunday it will consider the SAVAK dissolution bill and the bill pertaining to procedure for the prosecution of ministers and prime ministers and the procedure for the formation of the jury council.

Dr Shahpur Bakhtiar, the prime minister, at today's extraordinary open session of the Majlis, referred to the work difficulties and the various pressures put on the government from the economic, social and other viewpoints and said:

[Bakhtiar--begin recording] Some people imagined, or used to think or might think that, God forbid, we are wrong in our determination to remain in this fortress; if such a thing is repeated or seen and heard in the newspapers or the (?market place), or is rumored, it is nothing but a lie. [applause] I will not leave this fortress for as long as I enjoy the Majlis' vote of confidence and until this vote is withdrawn. Anyone who has something logical and legal to say should say it to the lawful government. [applause] We, too, are prepared to listen to any logic even if it comes, God forbid, from enemies; but my government will not surrender to bullying, trouble-making or adventurism even though other governments might. [applause]

In any case, I would like to point out that in spite of the very limited possibilities at our disposal, the strike by post, telegraph and telephone employees is almost over, and today 95 percent of the employees of this ministry returned to work. [applause] You may definitely rest assured that the other ministries will also gradually return to work. The people should realize that the era of living on charity has come to an end. What is important is that the worker, employee, minister and prime minister should be made to understand that they will be paid for the service they render. On the basis of these principles and to create an example I have abolished all the privileges of the premiership except the fixed salary for this post. [applause--interruption from the floor] We will turn to (?your questions) later.

The second issue that I wish to raise before the honorable deputies--and perhaps it is necessary, for there are great many rumors--is this: I have held talks, through trustworthy representatives, with His Eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni; but since these talks have not yet reached a final result and are unfinished, I ask for your permission not to speak further on this matter for the time being. But the principles which I pointed out at the outset of my statements--that is, under no circumstances and on no occasion will I abandon the fortress of the constitution for any regime whatsoever--remain intact.

We should accept the fact that in a democracy our opponents have the right to express themselves; we should accept the fact that after 25 years of suffocation, (?when we attend) to democracy, this democracy cannot be created in 1 day; it is impossible. When we have been used to an oppressive environment for 25 years and then begin living in a social democratic country, this change and transition undoubtedly requires us to tolerate some discomfort. I respect the freedom of the press and am truly concerned about it. You yourselves see the newspapers which do not side with the government; I have no previous knowledge; they write whatever they wish against the government, too. (?In any case, one should) be tolerant; as a result of this toleration undoubtedly the people are gradually enlightened and informed; what the people say is much more effective than reminders by the prime minister or by the government.

The freedom to which I refer, God willing, will prevail in this country forever; and what we have experienced in the past we will not experience again; I have learned from that experience so that we should never move toward a similar dictatorship. If we get rid of, as I said, a rotten dictatorship,and supposing we should fall into a new oppressive regime [words indistinct],I tell you this with complete clarity: I have granted greater freedom as far as the government, ministers and I are concerned; but when it comes to the rights of the Iranian nation and each individual, each Iranian man and woman, all of their rights should be honored by our opponents. [applause] They must not imagine that the government's policy will be weakened through bullying, threats, setting fire to houses and similar acts of desperation.

This brief statement will suffice for today, and I assure you once again that the government will not abandon the fortress of the law and there will be no hesitation on our part under any circumstances. Yesterday, at a cabinet meeting, I said to each one of the ministers: These are our difficulties; this is the situation in the country; all 14 of you speak separately (?in a very confidential atmosphere). All of them said honestly and firmly: Either we die or we defend the law. [applause--end recording]

GOVERNMENT SUBMITS BILLS ON SAVAK, PROSECUTION PROCEDURE

LD241150 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jan 79 LD

[Excerpts] The government today submitted to the Majlis a bill on the abolition of SAVAK and a bill on the procedure for prosecution of ministers and prime ministers and for a trial-by-jury system.

In accordance with the bill on the prosecution of ministers and prime ministers and the procedure for the formation of juries, a tribunal composed of the entire bench of the Supreme Court and an arbitration committee will be formed under the Supreme Court.

According to the bill on the dissolution of SAVAK, consideration of all the crimes perpetrated by this organization will be assigned to the Ministry of Justice. On the basis of this bill, SAVAK will be dissolved and the laws pertaining to it will be abolished. With the dissolution of SAVAK, the government has the duty to submit to the Majlis, within 1 month following the ratification of this law, a bill on the formation and establishment of the new national intelligence center which will serve the independence and maintenance of security inside the country.

The Majlis Public Relations Committee announced in a statement that the Majlis deputies will firmly defend the constitution as a valuable national heritage which has been gained at the price of the blood of the Iranian faithful and illustrious martyrs.

SECURITY FORCES INTERVENE IN TEHRAN DEMONSTRATION

LD241426 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Following demonstrations held in support of the constitution in Tehran yesterday, today groups of people, who gathered in front of Amjadiyeh Stadium holding aloft the Iranian flag and constitutional slogans, marched along Amjadiyeh and Darvazeh Dowlat Streets and shouted slogans in support of the constitution. In the course of the march other groups of people expressed their opposition to these groups. The demonstration ended after intervention by the security forces.

At the end of their march, supporters of the constitution announced that they would gather again at Baharestan Square at 1000 tomorrow, 25 January.

AFP Report

TA241213 Paris AFP in English 1159 GMT 24 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Tehran, Jan 24 (AFP)--Partisans of the shah and his enemy Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni clashed in the capital for the first time today. Royalists and religious leaders devotees fought each other with sticks, stones and knives. Small groups battled in various places for more than an hour.

There was fighting in front of the U.S. Embassy, where several of the Iranian monarch's sympathizers finally took refuge.

Police dispersed the demonstrators. Several people were reported to have been wounded.

Similar clashes also took place in provincial towns.

TEHRAN GOVERNOR WARNS MARCHERS AGAINST 'SUBVERSIVES'

LD241848 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Jan 79 LD

[Communique No 32 of the military governorate of Tehran and district, issued on 24 January]

[Text] Esteemed fellow citizens of Tehran: some of you have requested that they be allowed to hold a march, while fully observing order and discipline along a predetermined route in such a manner as will not cause any provocations or disturbance, and this request has been agreed to by the government.

Because a number of opportunists, who are the puppets of foreigners, are always seeking to use every opportunity to create riots and disturbances; to put into effect their loathesome aims and ideas; to endanger the independence and existence of the country; to attempt adventures by penetrating the ranks of the above-mentioned march and clashing with its participants in order to frighten the people; and, to impose their sinister plans on the people and on our dear compatriots--because of all this, the military governorate of Tehran and district, by virtue of its sacred duty to establish order and public peace, to safeguard the lives, property and honor of the people, and to expose the antinational plots, hereby warns all citizens to be aware of the danger lying in wait for them from the said penetration by opportunist and subversive elements.

The military governorate also expects all participants in the march, as approved by the government, to observe order and calm and, by stationing reliable people along the route of the march, to prevent participation by subversives who approach them in order to create disturbances and not to allow a number of adventurists to carry out their sinister plans.

It goes without saying that the officers of the military governorate of Tehran and district will watch over the proceedings with the utmost vigilance, and that they will defeat and crush with the utmost severity any subversion or action calculated to undermine public order or attacks on sensitive and vital points in the city--the ministries, the army, gendarmerie and police organizations of the imperial state, the protection and safeguarding of which are given special priority.

[Signed] The military governor of Tehran and district, Lt Gen Mehdi Rahimi.

COOPERATIVE PARTY ORGANIZES MARCH FOR 25 JANUARY

LD241738 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Jan 79 LD

[Text] The Iranian Nation's Cooperative Party [Hezb-e ta'avon-e Mellet-e Iran] has announced that a march in support of the constitution will be organized to proceed from Amjadiyeh Stadium to Baharestan Square tomorrow, Thursday, 25 January. Those interested in taking part in this march should be at the badminton court in Amjadiyeh Stadium from 0800 to 0830.

'MODERATES' HOLD DEMONSTRATION IN TEHRAN

TA251145 Paris AFP in English 1144 GMT 25 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Tehran, Jan 25 (AFP)--Tens of thousands of Iranian "moderates" marched through the streets of the capital today in support of Premier Shahpur Bakhtiar and the present constitution.

The demonstrators, estimated at 100,000 by the official PARS NEWS AGENCY and 40,000 by observers, marched behind Iran's red, white and green flag, rejecting what they called "the tyranny of Khomeyni." They gathered in the square of the Iranian lower house (the Majlis), and marched to Mr Bakhtiar's home.

The rich from the north of the city marched with intellectuals, police in civilian clothes, poor people still loyal to the shah, some troops in uniform, moderates concerned about the current wave of Islamic fervour.

Soldiers guarding main roads for the first time in several weeks had paper Iranian flags attached to their machine guns.

"Liberty, independence, the constitution," the demonstrators chanted. Some carried banners bearing the words "Bakhtiar Retain Power, Do Not Give Power to Khomeyni," (the Paris-exiled Muslim opposition leader). "We want neither the shah nor Khomeyni," one demonstrator explained. "We reject dictatorship under whatever guise," a speaker told the crowds.

The "moderates" are clearly not the majority in Iran. Observers noted that three times in the past 40 days Ayatollah Khomeyni has called more than two million people out onto the streets of the capital. But today's demonstration did represent a new phase in the Iranian crisis, they said. The moderates represented a middle way between the religious opposition and the royalists, they added.

Their appearance on the streets on the eve of Ayatollah Khomeyni's scheduled return from Paris suggested that Iran need not necessarily be totally swept into the religious (?camp).

Observers also saw an Iranian Marxists' demonstration calling for the right to "dissidence" as reinforcing this view.

During today's demonstration there were reports that shots had been heard and that small groups of Khomeyni supporters had thrown stones at demonstrators.

NATIONAL VOICE OF IRAN ON CENTRAL COORDINATING ASSEMBLY

TA241134 [Editorial Report TA] National Voice of Iran [Clandestine] in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 23 January begins its broadcast with a commentary entitled: "The Establishment and Strengthening of Revolutionary Assemblies and Councils." The commentator is heard telling his "dear fellow citizens" that not only has an illegal government been established on our soil, but in addition there is a serious threat of a military coup d'etat supported by America. After a long indistinct passage, remarks are heard to the effect that the Iranian people wish to bring the threats against them to an end, and among the greatest threats is that of America.

The commentator later discusses the necessity of "realizing the wishes of the revolution" by "forming revolutionary assemblies and councils in the cities and villages" and in places of employment. "The formation of the assemblies and councils is a matter of (?taking) authority away from the hands of the illegal groups," as would be any government established by a military coup d'etat.

"At the same time as the formation of the revolutionary assemblies and councils in the cities and villages of the country, the workers, laborers, and technicians," who have already joined some 5,000 governmental and nongovernmental assemblies, must take some additional steps.

One important measure is "an assembly [shura'i] called the central coordinating assembly of governmental and nongovernmental organizations" [shura-ye markazi-ye hamahangi-ye sazmanha-ye dowlati va gheyr dowlati]. All the other assemblies would benefit from the coordination of this central organ. This is in the interest of protecting the achievements of the Iranian revolution.

"The question of giving structure to the struggle" is a vital one, because the demonstrations and strikes of the people require direction. The revolutionary assemblies and councils will provide the direction needed to counter every kind of counterrevolutionary plot. These "revolutionary assemblies and committees" must perform their duty by reflecting the goals of the people. The people of Iran are behind the revolution and the total destruction of the royalist regime and "the establishment of a national republic and [word indistinct] government for the response to any kind of plot by the supporters of the former shah and his despotic regime and the American masters. With all (?their) forces (?the Iranian people) have taken steps [word indistinct] through the formation of revolutionary assemblies, councils and committees (?to achieve these ends)."

NVOI CALLS FOR MILITARY SOLIDARITY WITH REVOLUTION

TA241356 [Editorial Report TA] National Voice of Iran [Clandestine] in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 23 January carries a second commentary devoted to the brave soldiers of Iran and their role in the revolution. The commentator begins his remarks to his "dear fellow citizens" by pointing out that "despite the mercenary efforts of the government (?appointed) by the former shah and of his American masters", the national movement of Iran is constantly growing in scope. "Every day new [word indistinct] and groups join the national and democratic revolution of the people of Iran" by taking their place beside the people in the battle with the remnants of the former shah's regime. This is also true of the patriotic soldiers who refuse to accept "the disgrace of cooperation with the mercenary royalist regime" and the treacherous elements of the "army who (?are working) with the Pentagon and the CIA."

The commentator discusses the role and activities of the military who have joined the common struggle--like the 4,000 men of the Iranian Air Force who have drawn the attention of the entire nation. "As our dear fellow citizens have heard, the officers of the Iranian Air Force" have asked for solidarity with the workers and for the expulsion from Iran of the professional spies and technicians of the United States of America. The Pentagon and the CIA are apparently accused of preparing a military coup d'etat, but the speaker goes on to say that "the movement of the people of the country" will obstruct "the path prepared for the American, imperialist plot" and the patriotic soldiers "will under no circumstances participate" in such a coup d'etat.

In a partially indistinct passage the speaker is heard arguing that the American forces were not stationed in Iran in order to help protect the integrity and freedom of Iran, but to use Iran as a pawn in its geostrategic plans.

The commentator is heard saying that the spread of the revolutionary movement among the officers, NCO's and soldiers of the Iranian military is entirely legal. "At present (?either) an officer or an NCO or a soldier can flee and he will not be killed by the hand of one of his colleagues with the support of (?the butchers of the mercenary royalist regime). This question is posed by the patriotic military of Iran: why and to protect whom must they (?stand) against their own free fellow citizens. "Each day more members of the armed forces take their place beside the nation," and in the next few days the scope of the movement will grow. The brave actions of the air force should and must be an example for the rest of the armed forces.

NVOI STRESSES NEED FOR REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS

TA241613 [Editorial Report TA] National Voice of Iran [Clandestine] in Azerbaijani to Iran at 1745 GMT on 23 January urges the Iranian people to intensify their efforts to form revolutionary organizations throughout the country. The commentary says: "By the powerful hand of the Iranian nation, the shah has been expelled from our sacred homeland and is now on his way to his real and actual homeland, the United States. As a nation, we cannot accept a government which is subservient to the shah and to the Americans. Consequently, we should sustain and intensify the struggle to reject the shah's criminal regime. Thus, the entire nation should participate in the efforts designed to create revolutionary assemblies [suralar] and councils [encumenler] throughout the country and these must assume control of affairs in their localities." The commentary goes on to stress the major importance of the revolutionary organizations in the "continuing revolutionary and democratic struggle."

NVOI CALLS FOR NATIONAL, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC

TA242234 National Voice of Iran [Clandestine] in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 24 Jan 79 TA

[Unattributed commentary: "The Coup d'Etat Plot Must Be Aborted Through a Counterattack"]

[Text] Dear fellow citizens: The remnants of the apparatus that the former shah established when he fled Iran are gradually collapsing under the cresting wave of the anti-despotic and anti-American movement of the Iranian nation. As you know, Seyyed Jamaleddin Tehrani, the chairman of the Regency Council who was appointed by the former shah, has officially announced his resignation from his position. In the announcement of his resignation as chairman of the Regency Council, he not only declared that he had resigned but he clearly informed the world that this council, which was created by the former shah, fundamentally lacks all moral basis and legal authority. It is said that some of the other members of the council have either announced their resignations or are ready to do so.

The fabric of the filthy royalist regime of the shah--the entire basis of the government apparatus--is coming unraveled, and the administrative mechanism of the shah's regime has broken down. Opposition to the royalist regime and support for the destruction of this self-established regime has been growing for some time in the Majlis, which was created in the interests of property owners through the bogus elections of the Rastakhiz Party.

Things have reached the point at which a group of Majlis members have resigned (?to escape the onus) of being Majlis representatives. This is because of their opposition to the illegal Majlis, which was created through bogus elections and under the bayonets of SAVAK, and in protest against the continuation of the life of the improper royalist regime in Iran.

The effort to gain distance from the shah's regime and the remnants of its exhausted administrative apparatus is acquiring ever increasing momentum. It is said that the leaders of the two houses--the Majlis and the Senate--(?have) also (?traveled) to Paris in order to meet His Eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni in order to clarify their position in regard to the two houses (?which were built by the shah).

Concurrently with the paralysis of all administrative and productive systems and the bulk of the service sector throughout the country in the wake of the political and national strikes of the laborers and workers, a tangible development (?is underway) within the ranks of the country's armed forces in which the military is being drawn toward the people and the national and nationalistic revolution in Iran. In the demonstrations of this past week in such places as Hamadan and Ahvaz, for example, all the armed forces refrained from firing on the unarmed people and from acting as so-called "guardians of the freedom of the national government." In another example, more than 4,000 air force cadets and the air force cadets of Bandar Abbas as well as the staffs of the Hamadan and Babol military bases and the Bandar Pahlavi naval vase suddenly began a strike with gestures of protest against the American military advisers, against the intervention of the Americans in the internal affairs of our nation and against the shah.

Witnesses and indisputable documents testify to the fact that a deep split has appeared within the armed forces of the country--that final pillar of the (?mercenary) royalist regime--and that the movement of the patriotic military toward the people--their brothers, sisters, fathers and mothers--is constantly becoming stronger.

The people of Iran are joined as a single fabric under the slogan "Total and final destruction to the (?mercenary) royalist regime and the establishment of a national, Islamic republic [jomhuri-ye melli-ye Islami]." And they are continuing their holy war [jihad].

The officials of the despotic regime of the runaway shah and their American masters as well as the professional (?torturers) and murderers of SAVAK and the organizations that (?sold themselves to) the former shah are far from being idle. They know that the establishment of a lawful government and the national Islamic republic would be their death warrant.

These black/CIA [siyah--a play on words which can mean either black or CIA] forces are using various means to work against the people and others [as heard]. They are penetrating the ranks of the demonstrators in order to create (?havoc) and terror, (?setting supporters of the former shah into motion), staging armed attacks against the people's demonstrations, setting fire to the [word indistinct] and factories of the people, and in some cases even leading armed attacks against the men in military uniform in order to provoke their armed response. This is but one aspect of the work of the black/CIA forces under the direction of American and Israeli advisers of the regime of the former shah.

As for the other aspect of the destructive activities of the black/CIA forces and the protectors of the former shah, it consists of making preparations for a military coup d'etat with the leadership of American military advisers under the banner of guardianship of the constitution. In response to this plot, it seems that the (?warning) of His Eminence Ayatollah Taleqani should be sufficient. His Eminence Ayatollah Taleqani has said: "At present, the army cannot carry out a coup d'etat because it would either need to conduct the coup against itself or to undertake the coup with the excuse [dalil] that everything was falling apart, and in that case the people themselves would perform their duty and defend themselves." His Eminence Ayatollah Taleqani has said: "Up to this point, we have held the people back and we have repeatedly said that we would express their will to the world (?with the torch of innocence). The people have remained calm and they have not fired a single shot at the military. But should the army (?raise its hand against the people), the people will not stand for such behavior. They, too, will take up arms. The people are ready to defend themselves."

On this subject, just as all the [word indistinct] progressive, national forces have warned, we must be prepared to counter the armed plots of the officials of the former shah's regime and its American masters. The armed plot against the revolution can only be destroyed with a counterattack [nabarde-e motaqabil].

NVOI STRESSES ROLE OF PEASANTS IN STRUGGLE

TA242044 [Editorial Report TA] National Voice of Iran [Clandestine] in Azerbaijani to Iran at 1745 GMT on 24 January begins its broadcast with the following appeal to Iranian peasants: "Iran's toiling peasants: Unite and be united. Struggle to obtain your basic and just rights. The people are with us and victory will be ours." The radio then carries a commentary on the role of the peasants in the current struggle. The commentary says in part:

"In our homeland, Iran, the aims of democracy and revolution will be realized through the current struggle. The paramount aim of this struggle is to completely destroy the rotten proimperialist imperial regime and to create in its place a democratic and national republic. The peasants can make a direct contribution to the creation of such a state and democratic order."

"In the process of a democratic and national revolution, unity between the workers and peasants is essential and is considered one of the basic requirements for the victory of the revolution. In view of this, the Iranian workers are giving a prominent place to the demands of the peasants among the revolutionary demands for which the struggle is being waged. For their part, toiling peasants are supporting the struggle being waged by the workers and by our enslaved people."

"Recently, the peasants have intensified their struggle against the shah's bloody regime." "Iranian peasants in every village must join in the struggle against the shah's rotten and bloody regime."

"The peasants can establish their own revolutionary assemblies and councils and thus make a (?major contribution) to the overthrow of the evil imperial regime and to the establishment of a true people's state." "Peasant forces have a vital role to play in the Iranian people's revolutionary struggle. The country's peasants should contribute most effectively to the national movement and national struggle."

TUDEH PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL ON POPULAR ANTISHAH MOVEMENT

Beirut AN-NIDA' in Arabic 17 Dec 79 p 7 WA

[Interview With Iraj Eskandari, Secretary General of the Iranian People's Party (Tudeh): "Clergymen Express People's Feelings and We Are Struggling Together; Iran Is Witnessing Deep-Rooted Popular Uprising"]

[Text] AN-NIDA' has acquired an important interview with Comrade Iraj Eskandari, the secretary general of the Iranian People's Party (Tudeh). The interview was conducted with Eskandari by the journal, THE PROBLEMS OF PEACE AND SOCIALISM. We publish the following text of the interview that was conducted in the wake of the bloody clashes of September:

[Question] How do you evaluate the general character of the movement whose development led to an open confrontation with the regime at the beginning of September?

[Answer] The movement against the shah's dictatorship in Iran has expanded and escalated in an astonishing manner in recent months. The development of events has not been surprising to our party. Three years ago, the plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Iranian People's Party (Tudeh) predicted the inevitability of the rapid development of the democratic and national movement. The indicators of this development appeared in the escalating strike movement and in the growing resentment among the students, intellectuals and the national bourgeoisie.

It is natural that nobody can predict in advance the tangible form that the movement will take in this or that particular moment. If the movement assumes currently a somewhat religious hue, then this reality should not be exaggerated because the Shi'ite clergymen in Iran who have middle-class and petit bourgeois roots could not remain indifferent to the suffering of the people. They have urged and continue to urge the people to struggle against the dictatorship. However, this should not make us forget that all the opposition elements in the country have united in a single and spontaneous movement against the regime.

We believe that the current movement bears a popular, democratic and revolutionary character. It is popular because the broadest masses, especially the workers and the representatives of the petit bourgeoisie and of the national bourgeoisie, are taking part in the action and in the demonstrations. It is democratic because the main slogan of the movement is the establishment of a democratic system in the country. It is revolutionary because its goal is to replace the regime altogether, and such replacement must be realized by the people themselves.

Nature of Movement

It must be said that the movement is not led by any specific organization set up in advance. The people's resentment has reached such a level of force that the broader groups of the people, meaning all those who yearn for democracy and who oppose social oppression and misery--the conditions resulting from the policy followed by the government--have responded to the slogan calling for struggle against the shah's regime. It is well-known that the billions in revenues that Iran acquires from its oil exports lead to nothing other than widening the gap between the poor and the rich in our country.

We have witnessed in recent years the rapid enrichment of a handful of people who hold the positions of power and who are closely linked with the imperialist monopolies. We have also witnessed, on the other hand, the ever-growing misery of the popular masses and of the workers, the rising unemployment and the intensifying destruction of the peasants. Moreover, the escalating corruption, the oppression and the misuse of power by the ruling circles have aroused severe general resentment. All this, in addition to [paragraph continues]

many other things, set the framework for the current actions in which the extremely divergent social and political forces and groups are taking part.

Who Leads Army and Police

Nobody other than the army and the police, whom everybody knows are led by the American advisers, continues to support the shah's regime. The number of these advisers in the country is almost 40,000 and they cost the state nearly 1 billion dollars annually. The army and the police are the side that provoked the bloody clashes, including the tragedy of 8 September in which nearly 100 unarmed demonstrators were killed according to the official figures, whereas the actual figure ranges from 2,000 to 3,000 people killed. Everybody knows that the demonstration was of a peaceful nature, even though some barricades were set up for protection from the army. However, there are signs that the army's support for the regime will not continue forever because it happened that some officers and troops have refused to open fire on the people so far.

[Question] The capitalist press portrays the current movement against the regime in Iran as being fundamentally the work of the conservative forces against the shah's policy which seeks "modernization" and as being a movement through which the Shi'ite clergymen demand a return to "puritanical Islam" and oppose the shah's reforms that seek to transform the country from the Middle Ages to the "modern society." What are your comments on these statements?

Clergymen Reflect Popular Feelings

[Answer] Insofar as the religious aspect of the current movement against the regime is concerned, it must be pointed out that the Shi'ite clergymen cannot be considered as a force demanding a return to the past, to the Middle Ages. The position of the clergymen reflects to a large degree the popular feelings. We cannot but welcome the fact that the religious movement is performing currently an important role in mobilizing the democratic and national forces against the shah's dictatorial, unpatriotic and proimperialist regime.

Our party is a popular party and it has always respected the deeply rooted religious beliefs among the overwhelming majority of the Iranian people. Moreover, the Tudeh Party is also a democratic party. This is why we call for alliance with all the democratic forces, including the religious forces. We consider as a positive phenomenon the statements by Muslim leaders such as Khomeyni which proceed from an anti-imperialist basis to declare that the shah's regime is a regime hostile to the people and to Islam and a regime that must be toppled. Naturally, this does not mean that we are in agreement on everything with the religious leaders. However, we must be realistic. The situation would be different if the matter concerned the creation of a theocratic state. But as far as we know, the Iranian religious leaders have not called at all for anything of the sort.

If Madari (another prominent religious leader in Iran) calls for a return to the 1906 constitution, then this constitution was sufficiently democratic, even though the shah introduced to it some amendments that led to the rise of his autocratic rule in the country. Consequently, the demand for a return to the 1906 constitution is not at all a reactionary demand.

We Participate in Single Movement

It is well known that the shah and his government tried in recent years to hold those they have called the "Muslim Marxists" responsible for all antigovernment actions. There was in Iran a Muslim group that called itself the "Popular Fighters" who were connected with the radical movement of the "Civilian Partisans." [paragraph continues]

The shah innovated for these people the phrase Muslim Marxists. The Popular Fighters have constantly refused to be characterized as Marxists even though they have asserted that Marxism has positive aspects with which they agree.) They coined this expression for themselves as a means to divide the antidictatorship movement and to attack a religion and Marxism at the same time. The shah, his government and his secret police (SAVAK) are still saying that the religious movement and the Iranian People's Party (Tudeh) cannot cooperate because Marxism and Islam do not meet. In fact, there is no official cooperation between us. We only participate in a single movement aimed against the present regime. But the essence of this propaganda by the regime is aimed against us, against the communists, against the Tudeh Party.

If the current movement against the regime were a purely religious movement, the shah would be able to meet the purely religious demands and would thus be able to try to curtail the wave of popular resentment. But the fact is that the movement is a political movement and the demands are political demands made by the people in their entirety. These are demands that seek specifically to liquidate the dictatorship and to set up a democratic system.

[Question] What are the other forces working against the regime?

[Answer] In the first place there is the National Front that comprises all the patriotic and democratic political forces. The followers of this front are those who followed Mosaddeq. (Mosaddeq was Iranian prime minister from 1951 to 1953. He nationalized the British-Iranian Oil Companies. He was toppled by a plot supported by the United States.) All the followers of the National Front oppose the shah's dictatorship, demand the reinstatement of public liberties and call for convening a constituent assembly elected by public vote and for a democratic government formed on the basis of free elections. They do not state openly that they are against the monarchy but hint at this. They demand that the production of oil be reduced so that the country's resources may not be squandered unreasonably. The front consists basically in its structure of the petit bourgeoisie. It enjoys considerable influence among the education circles, especially the students.

Reactionary Opposition

In addition, there is a reactionary opposition to the shah's regime consisting of pro-American leaders. These leaders wish to settle the current crisis in the country in a manner that would create no dangers for the United States and Britain and for the monopolies of these two imperialist countries and others. They adopt anti-Soviet and anticommunist positions. The most prominent representative of this current is 'Ali Amini, a former prime minister.

[Question] What are the foreign mainstays of the Iranian regime?

[Answer] The imperialism of the United States primarily. Iran is important to this imperialism in its capacity as a source of oil and because it occupies a very important strategic position on the Soviet borders. It is no coincidence that Carter contacted the shah by telephone from Camp David, where he was negotiating with Begin and As-Sadat, to express to the shah his sympathy and support. At the same time, the U.S. State Department announced very rudely that Iran's riots "are being calmed, it seems, very moderately."

Iran's Events Exposed Carter

Thus, Iran's events have fully exposed the demagogic and false nature of the Carter administration's "human rights" campaign. Insofar as we, the Tudeh Party and the National Front, are concerned, the matter was evident to us from the beginning. Even the reactionary opposition currents that were expecting some change in the U.S. position [paragraph continues]

have been disappointed. It is obvious that Carter does not want any changes in the U.S. position toward Iran. At the same time, the United States cannot understand that the resentment has included all the population groups in the country. This is why the United States is seeking something to pacify the resentment but can find nothing. is thus content with some superficial changes that are being currently made by the current government of Sharif-Emami.

The Zionist Government of Israel supports the shah openly.

And Chinese Leadership

Finally, the current leadership of the PRC constitutes a foreign support for the shah's bloody regime. Peking affirmed its support for the shah after the 8 September massacre and made a reference to the statement issued in Tehran and filled with lies about "the demonstrations financed and organized from abroad."

Earlier, it became obvious from Hua Kuo-feng's visit to Tehran and from his statements there that there is a disgraceful and unprincipled accord between the imperialist United States and the PRC leadership. The image that the progressive forces in the world had of the Chinese revolution has now been completely distorted. The Chinese leadership's position on African affairs, the regime in Chile and on other issues has contributed toward this distortion.

It is very important that our people have come to realize now the role of the present PRC leadership, and this realization has dealt a fatal blow to the Maoist propaganda in Iran--propaganda that was very active in the past and that accused our party of revisionism. Today, all can truly see who adopts the revisionist and proimperialist positions and who is really struggling for the people's interests in Iran.

AFGHANISTAN

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS DISCUSSES IRAN 9 JANUARY

LD 250010 Kabul in English to South Asia 1400 GMT 9 Jan 79 LD

[Text] An extraordinary session of the Council of Ministers was held under the chairmanship of the great leader and mighty teacher of the people of Afghanistan, Nur Mohammad Taraki, secretary general of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] at 1100 this morning at the People's House and lasted until 1 pm.

In this extraordinary session of the Council of Ministers of the DRA, the internal problems in Iran were discussed. The Council of Ministers of the DRA made an all-sided discussion and analysis of the (?recent) internal situation in Iran and expressed its deep anxiety over the difficulties of the fraternal people of Iran. The Council of Ministers expressed its concern over the efforts of the enemies of the people of Iran for intervening in their internal affairs and strongly condemned any interference by the aliens in the internal affairs of the people of Iran which is specific to themselves.

The Council of Ministers of the DRA follows the internal affairs of the fraternal country, Iran, with attention and [words indistinct] of the prosperity and strengthening of the national sovereignty of the people of Iran. The Council of Ministers takes, on the basic lines of the revolutionary duties of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, an interest in the peace of the region and the world, assessing every (?aggression) of the rights of the people of Iran and interference in the internal affairs of the Irani brethren as acting against the interests of the people of Iran and against peace in the region and the world.

REBELS REPORT GOVERNMENT PEACE MISSION DISPATCHED

BK250416 Hong Kong AFP in English 0407 GMT 25 Jan 79 BK

[Text] Peshawar, northwest Pakistan, 25 Jan (AFP)--The Afghan Government has sent negotiators to try to stop fighting between the regular army and rebels in Orugan Province in central Afghanistan, Afghan refugee circles here said yesterday.

The Jamiat-Islami Afghanistan, an organization of rebel Muslims fighting the pro-Soviet regime of Afghan Premier Nur Mohammad Taraki, said that the Afghan Government had recently sent a "peace mission" to the combat area to try to defuse a revolt that broke out in mid-January in the Derawoot district in central Afghanistan.

The organization said that 700 soldiers, 160 Muslim guerrillas and nine local religious leaders had died in the fighting. It also said the rebels had four demands:

1) Abolition of the one-party regime and introduction of a multi-party system.

2) Abolition of the red flag adopted by Mr Taraki's revolutionary regime and a return to a flag containing green, symbol of Islam.

3) Departure from Afghanistan of Soviet experts and advisors who were "infiltrating" the army and the administration.

4) Announcement of a date for general elections, in which religious parties including the Jamiat-Islami could take part.

The outcome of the government peace mission was unknown here tonight. Jamiat-Islami sources believed it had little chance of success since the Taraki government considered the rebels' demands "unacceptable".

A similar mission last December to Khunar Province in northeastern Afghanistan failed, and fighting resumed there almost immediately.

BANGLADESH

FOREIGN MINISTER HOME FROM VISIT TO NEPAL, BURMA

BK250859 Dacca Domestic Service in English 0835 GMT 25 Jan 79 BK

[Text] The foreign minister, Prof Mohammad Shamsul Haq, returned to Dacca today from Rangoon after his official visits to Nepal and Burma.

INDIA

DELHI RADIO ANNOUNCES PORTFOLIOS OF NEW CABINET MEMBERS

BK240841 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Jan 79 BK

[Text] Mr Charan Singh has joined the union Cabinet as deputy prime minister. At a formal ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan this morning, the president, Mr Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr Charan Singh. Both Mr Charan Singh and Mr Rabi Ray took the oath in Hindi.

A Rashtrapati Bhavan communique says that Mr Charan Singh will hold the portfolio of finance and Mr Rabi Ray that of health and family welfare. Mr H.M. Patel, at present in charge of the Ministry of Finance, will hold the charge of Ministry of Home Affairs.

Mr Jagjivan Ram would be designated as deputy prime minister and will continue to hold the charge of the Ministry of Defense.

Among those present at the ceremony were the prime minister, his Cabinet colleagues, the Janata Party president, Mr Chandra Shekher, and a number of members of Parliament.

VAJPAYEE ON RELATIONS WITH IRAN, CAMBODIA

BK250315 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Jan 79 BK

[Text] The external affairs minister has said that India is watching the situation in Iran. Speaking at a meeting of the consultative committee of MP's attached to his ministry in New Delhi, Mr Vajpayee expressed the hope that any government that finally emerges in that country will continue to be friendly with India.

He said no communication has so far been received for recognition from the Kampuchean Government. Mr Vajpayee said that there is a move to bring in the Kampuchean question at the coming meeting of the Nonalined Bureau in Mozambique. India's view is that the meeting has been called to discuss problems of southern Africa and it is opposed to any attempt to divert attention to other matters.

STATEMENT ISSUED FOLLOWING HUSSEIN VISIT

BK250913 Delhi ISI in English 0830 GMT 25 Jan 79 BK

["India-Malaysia Joint Press Statement"--ISI heading]

[Text] The prime minister of Malaysia, the honourable Datuk Hussein Bin Onn, paid a state visit to India from January 22 to 25, 1979. He called on the president of India, N. Sanjiva Reddy, and held discussions with the prime minister, Morarji Desai, and other ministers. These discussions covered the international situation, with particular reference to the developments in Asia as well as the bilateral relations between India and Malaysia. The talks were conducted in the traditional atmosphere of friendship and understanding characterising the relations between the two countries.

Recalling with pleasure their earlier meetings on different occasions, the two prime ministers felt that these meetings had contributed towards strengthening their mutual understanding. They expressed satisfaction at the already wide range of cooperation between their two countries which would be extended further as a result of this visit. Welcoming the signing of the economic and technical cooperation agreement, the two prime ministers expressed their confidence that the consultative machinery provided by the agreement will further step up their cooperative efforts and enlarge the areas of their mutual cooperation and share their skills and know-how for their own development. The two prime ministers also welcomed the exchange of letters to cover extradition arrangements between the two countries.

The prime minister of Malaysia apprised the prime minister of India of the latest developments in ASEAN in the promotion of regional economic growth, social progress and cultural development. The prime minister of India reaffirmed India's support for ASEAN and reiterated his country's desire to establish cooperation with it. The two prime ministers expressed their satisfaction with the steps that had already been initiated in this direction. The prime minister of India noted progress achieved by the ASEAN countries to promote regional peace, solidarity and cooperation in the region and reiterated India's support for the concept of a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality in Southeast Asia.

The two prime ministers stressed the need for cooperation among the states in South and Southeast Asia and, while welcoming some positive developments, were of the view that further efforts should be made to promote regional stability and cooperation in an atmosphere of peace and understanding. They also were of the view that intra-regional economic cooperation would contribute towards greater stability of the region and resilience of the countries of the region. They further emphasised the need to develop peaceful and constructive relations among the states on the basis of the principles of noninterference in internal affairs and respect for sovereignty of nation states and the peaceful coexistence of countries with different social and economic systems.

While discussing the summit conference of nonaligned countries to be held later this year, the two prime ministers emphasised their determination to work towards preserving the authentic character and the genuine principles that have guided the movement since its inception. They expressed their confidence that the movement will continue to make meaningful contributions to world peace.

The prime minister of Malaysia extended an invitation to the prime minister of India to visit Malaysia. The invitation was accepted with pleasure.

During his stay in India, the prime minister of Malaysia paid a visit to Agra and met officers and men of his former regiment. He was accompanied by his wife, Datin Suhaila, his excellency the foreign minister and senior officials of the Malaysian Government.

PAKISTAN

MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN ARRIVES

BK250830 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 25 Jan 79 BK

[Text] Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Hussein Bin Onn arrived in Islamabad this morning on a 4-day official visit to Pakistan. A 19-gun salute was given to the distinguished guest as he alighted from the plane. President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Begum Ziaul Haq welcomed the Malaysian prime minister and Mrs Datuk Hussein Bin Onn.

Among those present at the airport to welcome the distinguished guest were federal ministers, the adviser on foreign affairs, diplomatic representatives in Islamabad and top military and civilian officials. Among those accompanying the Malaysian prime minister is Foreign Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen.

The distinguished guest was then led to a stand from where he took the salute from a smartly turned out contingent of the three armed forces. He also reviewed the troops. He then left for the guesthouse where he will be staying. President Mohammad Ziaul Haq called on the Malaysian prime minister soon after his arrival at the guesthouse. He was with him for some time. Later, he held informal talks and exchanged views on matters of mutual interest. Another round of talks will be held this afternoon.

SRI LANKA

DOUBLE TAXATION AVOIDANCE AGREEMENT REACHED WITH CSSR

BK251003 Colombo CEYLON DAILY NEWS in English 20 Jan 79 p 1 BK

[Text] Sri Lanka has entered into a double taxation agreement with Czechoslovakia--the first taxation agreement between Sri Lanka and any East European country.

The convention between the two governments will avoid double taxation which a resident or a company or a state corporation of Czechoslovakia or Sri Lanka faces if he or they wish to invest, trade or carry on an agricultural undertaking in either country.

Announcing the signing of the double taxation agreement, Finance and Planning Minister Mr Ronnie de Mel said the signing of the agreement proved that the Jayewardene government maintained a policy of strict non-alignment and friendly relations with socialist states like Czechoslovakia contrary to propaganda carried on by opponents of this government. The Czech-Sri Lanka agreement which broadly falls within the pattern of similar agreements with India, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, FRG, Japan, Pakistan and Malaysia had one exception, the minister said. "The Czech-Sri Lanka convention departs significantly in the treatment of dividends, interest and royalities in order to provide for greater incentives to foreign investment in Sri Lanka in keeping with the policy of the Jayewardene government," Mr de Mel said.